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NEBRASKA

A Guide to the Cornhusker State

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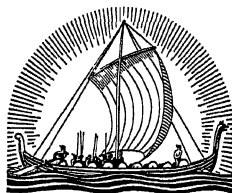
A GUIDE TO THE CORNHUSKER STATE



*Compiled and Written by the Federal Writers' Project of the
Works Progress Administration for the State of Nebraska*

AMERICAN GUIDE SERIES

ILLUSTRATED



Sponsored by The Nebraska State Historical Society

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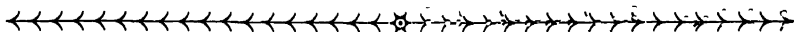
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Foreword

SOME of us in Nebraska know what it is to have made the first wagon track across an unbroken sea of grass into a new land, with no guide but the sun, the distant hilltops, and our own resolution.

I remember more than one such road. We had to find our way, discover our own fords, devise our own gully crossings, and leave a trail which others could follow and improve.

This book is another road starter. It is the first attempt to put into one compact handy volume the story of Nebraska's land and its people and a guide to every part of the State. It is the first Nebraska Baedeker.

Its preparation has called into the Federal service more than one hundred writers, researchers, draftsmen, and photographers, for a period exceeding two years. In the course of their work they have handled thousands of books, newspapers, and manuscripts, and have traveled Nebraska from the black prairie soil along the Missouri to the pine tree ridges beyond the sandhills.

The Superintendent and staff of the Nebraska State Historical Society have had the privilege of assisting in an advisory and critical capacity.

ADDISON E. SHELDON, *Superintendent*
Nebraska State Historical Society

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HENRY G. ALSBERG, *Director of Federal Writers' Project*



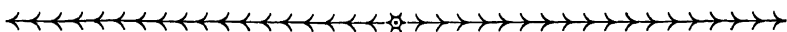
Preface

NEBRASKA: *A Guide to the Cornhusker State* is a group enterprise. In its initial stages field workers, assisted by volunteer consultants and school children, gathered data, interviewed old settlers, consulted newspaper files and all available records. They also clocked the mileage for tours along State and Federal highways. In district and branch offices the original field notes were checked, and manuscripts prepared. In composing final copy the State editors tried to see their State in a broad perspective and, at the same time, to preserve the flavor of the local material. Preference was given to midwestern idiom and spelling. It is the hope of the editors that the book presents an accurate and vivid picture of the State. If those who find inaccuracies will report them to the Federal Writers' Project, corrections will be made in future editions.

For comment and criticism on technical subjects, the editors are indebted especially to members of the faculty of the University of Nebraska and to the historians and archeologists of the State Historical Society. The libraries of Lincoln and Omaha and in other parts of the State graciously assisted in research and in providing reference material. The editors wish also to thank State and local governmental offices for their interest and cooperation.

Gratitude for valuable aid and criticism is due in particular to Dr. Erwin H. Barbour, Paul R. Beath, Dr. Earl H. Bell, Dr. Nels A. Bengtson, Margaret Cannell, Art Carmody, John Champe, Dr. George E. Condra, John F. Cordeal, Theodore C. Diers, Gilbert H. Doane, Peter Ebbesen, Gerald Gentleman, Vera Griswold, Dr. Paul H. Grummann, A. T. Hill, H. P. Kauffman, F. Dwight Kirsch, Mabel Langdon, Dr. John T. Link (deceased), Dr. Alvin L. Lugin, Dr. Martin S. Peterson, Dr. Louise Pound, Russell T. Prescott, Dr. James M. Reinhardt, Mari Sandoz, Dr. James L. Sellers, Dr. Addison E. Sheldon, John S. Stryker, Dr. Cleon O. Swayzee, Charles W. Taylor, Dr. Lowry C. Wimberly, A. B. Wood, and William L. Younkin.

J. HARRIS GABLE, *State Director*
RUDOLPH UMLAND, *Assistant State Director*
NORRIS GETTY, *State Editor*



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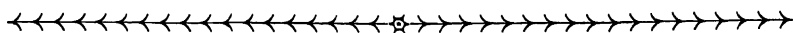
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General Information

(State maps showing highways and transportation routes in pocket, inside of back cover)

Railroads: Chicago, Burlington & Quincy R.R. (Burlington); Union Pacific R.R. (UP); Chicago & North Western Ry. (Northwestern); Missouri Pacific R.R.; Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific R.R. (Rock Island); Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha R.R. (St. Paul & Minneapolis); Chicago Great Western R.R.; Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific R.R.; Illinois Central R.R.; Wabash R.R.; Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe R.R. Most railway mileage in southern and eastern portions of the State.

Highways: 13 Federal and 93 State highways. Ordinarily no inspection at State border. Highway patrol. Gasoline tax 6¢. (For routes see State map.)

Bus Lines: Union Pacific Stages; Interstate Transit Lines; Burlington Trailways; Eastern Nebraska Lines; United Motor Ways; Santa Fe Trailways; Missouri Pacific Trailways; Chicago and Northwestern Lines; Black Hills Stages; Crawford-Gordon Line; Scottsbluff-Sterling Motor Line. As in the case of railroads, the sandhills area of Nebraska has relatively few routes.

Air Lines: United Airlines planes (New York to Pacific Coast) stop at Omaha, Grand Island, and North Platte. Twelve planes carrying passengers, mail, and express are cleared daily from division terminal, Omaha. Mid Continent Air Lines operate north and south out of Omaha, making connections there with the United Airlines. Charter planes available at Omaha, Lincoln, Grand Island, Hastings, Norfolk, Columbus, Kimball, Scottsbluff, and Alliance.

Motor Vehicle Laws (digest). Maximum speeds: 20 m.p.h. in business district; 25 m.p.h. in residential district; 50 m.p.h. on highways. Operator's license required after 30 days' residence in State; nonresidents may operate passenger cars for period during which their cars are licensed in States in which the owners reside. Minimum age for drivers: 16 yrs. Hand signals required. Personal injury or property damage (over \$50) must be reported to department of roads and irrigation at Lincoln within 24 hrs. or, when accident occurs in town, to local police department.

Prohibited: Glaring and dazzling lights; cut-outs, sirens, or whistles; more than one spotlight; passing another vehicle when within 100 ft. of any bridge, viaduct, or tunnel, or when traversing intersection or railroad grade crossing. (Local speed limits, prohibitions, etc., given in General Information for large cities. If in doubt concerning any motor vehicle laws, communicate with department of roads and irrigation at Lincoln.)

Poisonous Snakes and Plants: Rattlesnakes still infest certain areas of western Nebraska; hikers should carry snake serum in their first-aid kits. Poison-ivy along wooded streams, particularly in the eastern part of the State. If contact takes place and blisters appear on the skin, medical attention should be given at once.

Climate and Road Conditions: In summer the days are usually so warm that travelers often drive at night. Summer nights are usually cooler in the western than in the eastern part of the State. In general, spring and fall days are warm and pleasant; but sudden changes of temperature, necessitating warmer clothing, are not uncommon. The severest winter temperatures often exceed -20° F., and frequently blizzards block the roads. Sandhill roads are often blocked by fine sand, and it is advisable for the traveler to carry a shovel. Tire chains should be part of the motorist's equipment for travel on unimproved country roads in wet weather.

Recreational Areas: There are five recreational areas in Nebraska. The western tableland at the far end of the Panhandle subdivides into a northern section, where the streams are good for trout fishing and the badlands give opportunity for fossil hunting, and a southern area where the rugged country of Wildcat Range attracts the hiker and Lodgepole Creek provides trout fishing

The sandhill or lake country takes in most of north central Nebraska and extends westward into the Panhandle. Recreation in this area includes many kinds of fishing (trout, bass, catfish, crappie), and hunting (ducks, pheasants, prairie chickens) and the diversions afforded by State parks, numerous recreation grounds, and the two areas of the Nebraska National Forest.

South central Nebraska, including the canyon country, is an area of considerable historical and scenic interest, with occasional recreation grounds.

The eastern farming country consists largely of flat fenced-in fields and pastures; there is little opportunity for tourist recreation—outside of parks and recreation grounds—except for fishing and small-game hunting along streams.

The northeastern river country, along the bend of the Missouri and mouth of the Niobrara, is small in area, but rich in scenery and sports facilities. There are State parks, game reserves, and stretches of wooded country; duck and pheasant hunting is excellent. (*See STATE MAP*).

Hunting: Nebraska has good pheasant hunting (especially in Cedar, Greeley, Morrill, and Wayne Counties) and duck hunting (especially Adams, Box Butte, Cedar, Clay, Howard, and Keith Counties). Squirrels are hunted in the southeastern counties; rabbits are common throughout the State; raccoons are sometimes seen along watercourses in central Nebraska. A few of the fur-bearing animals—muskrat, opossum, skunk, and weasels—are occasionally trapped for their pelts. In some districts coyote hunting is a popular sport; hunters spread out to form a huge flying crescent, beat the bushes and comb the gullies, and drive the animals into a clearing where they go down before dogs and guns.

Fishing: Nebraska has many miles of flowing streams and more than a thousand lakes and ponds, many of them stocked with game fish by the State fish hatcheries. Bullheads and catfish are common in the muddy eastern creeks and rivers; trout provide the best sport in the western swift-flowing streams. Bass are found in some of the lakes; perch, crappie, and sunfish are common.

Fish and Game Laws (digest): Game fish are defined as any fish except buffalo, carp, quillback, suckers, gars, and squawfish. The following regulations were effective through August 1938; minor changes may be made from time to time. For limits and regulations peculiar to State-owned lakes, see manual published by game commission at Lincoln.

Licenses. Required of all persons 16 yrs. of age or over. May be purchased from county clerks, and at hardware and sporting goods stores, filling stations, banks, and resorts near fishing lakes. Hunting and fishing permit for resident, \$1.10. Hunting permit for nonresident, \$1.00 and up; fishing permit for nonresident, \$.20 and up; both charges depending on charges in State in which person resides. Fishing permit for alien, \$.50. Trapping permit (required of all persons, regardless of age) for resident, \$.20; for nonresident and alien, \$1.00 and up.

Open Season for Fishing (dates inclusive; figures indicate minimum length of fish): Bass (large- and small-mouth) (10 in.), Apr. 1–Apr. 30 and June 15–Nov. 30. Rock Bass (6 in.), Apr. 1–Nov. 30. Great Northern Pike (15 in.), wall-eyed pike (12 in.), and sauger or sand pike (10 in.), May 15–Nov. 30. Trout (keep all), Apr. 1–Nov. 30. Crappie (6

in.), Apr. 1–Nov. 30. Perch and sunfish (keep all), Apr. 1–Nov. 30. Catfish (10 in.) and bullheads (6 in.), Apr. 1–Nov. 30.

Daily Bag (fish taken from midnight to midnight): Trout, 10 (in State-owned lakes); bass (large- and small-mouth), 5; pike (any species), 5; catfish, 10, perch, 25; other game fish, 15. One may have in possession at one time not more than 25 of any of these species: crappie, sunfish, rock bass, bullheads, perch; not more than 10 large- or small-mouth bass, 5 pike, 15 catfish, 10 trout (5 in State-owned lakes); nor more than 25 game fish of all kinds.

Prohibited: Snagging; fishing with line having more than five hooks thereon, or with artificial bait having thereon more than three triple-gang hooks. Unlawful to take any game fish by means other than angling with hook and line, except that seine fishing is permitted in Missouri River under special permit.

Open Season for Hunting (dates inclusive): Mink, Nov. 1–Feb. 15; rabbits, Jan. 1–Dec. 31; squirrels, Oct. 1–Nov. 30; raccoons, Nov. 1–Feb. 1; opossum, Nov. 1–Feb. 1. No open season on beaver, buffalo, deer, mountain sheep, antelope, mountain goat, muskrats, otter. Waterfowl and other migratory birds, season designated yearly by Federal authority; usually in November. Pheasants (male), dates and counties specified yearly by commission. No open season on plover, prairie chickens, grouse, wood duck, curlew, quail, partridge, and wild turkey.

Limits: Squirrels, 7; raccoons, 2; opossum, 3; snipe (Wilson and jack-snipe), 15; ducks, 10; geese, 5. One may have in possession at one time no more of any species than the daily bag limit, and no more than 40 game birds of all kinds.

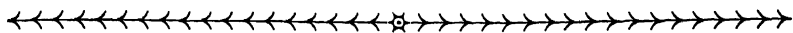
Prohibited: Use of explosives, chemicals, smokers, or spears; shooting from public highway, from any but hand-propelled boats, or from airplanes; hunting any birds earlier than one half hour before sunrise or later than sunset, or with any artificial light, trapping or snaring of birds; use of gun larger than 10 gage in hunting game birds; destruction of eggs or nests; hunting or trapping on private land without permission of owner.

Picnicking and Camping: There are facilities for picnicking, hiking, swimming and riding in most of the 7 State parks and 26 recreation grounds maintained by the State Game, Forestation, and Parks Commission. Many parks have swimming pools, stores, auditoriums, and cabins. Recreation grounds, less cultivated than the parks, provide additional opportunities for boating, fishing, and camping. (*See Index on State map.*)

Calendar of Events

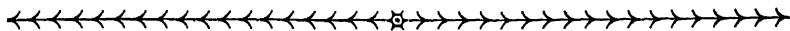
Events varying in date from year to year are scheduled in the week in which they usually occur

Mar. 1	State-wide	State Day (school holiday)
Apr. 22	State-wide	Arbor Day
2d-3d wk	SE. Nebr.	Apple Blossom Day
May 1st wk	Lincoln	Ivy Day (University of Nebraska)
1st wk	Lincoln	Farmers Fair (College of Agriculture)
2d wk	Lincoln	Nebraska Writers' Guild Meeting
June 1-30	Omaha	Ak-Sar-Ben Races
3d wk	Chimney Rock	Passion Play The Gift of God
4th wk	Alliance	Panhandle Stampede
July 1-4	Omaha	Ak-Sar-Ben Races (continuation)
wk including July 17	Gering	Oregon Trail Days
Aug. 1st-2d wk	Burwell	Burwell Rodeo
1st-2d wk	Trenton	Massacre Canyon Pow-wow
1st-2d wk	Winnebago	Winnebago Pow-wow
3d wk	Macy	Omaha Pow-wow
3d wk	Bassett	Rock County Rodeo
3d-4th wk	Wahoo	Wahoo Buckaroo
3d-4th wk	Hay Springs	Friendly Festival (3 days)
Sept. 1st wk	Lincoln	State Fair
1st wk	Bridgeport	Camp Clark Days (4 days)
1st-2d wk	North Loup	Popcorn Days (2 days)
3d wk	Plattsmouth	King Korn Karnival (4 days)
3d-4th wk	Columbus	Fall Frolic
Oct. 1st wk	Lincoln	State Historical Society Meeting
		Native Sons and Daughters of Nebraska
1st-2d wk	Omaha	Ak-Sar-Ben
Nov. 3d-4th wk		Corn Husking Contest
Dec. 1st wk	Lincoln	Organized Agriculture Week (4 days)



PART I

The State in Review





CORN IN FLOWER



Modern Nebraska

THE traveler crossing Nebraska gets an impression of broad fields, deep skies, wind, and sunlight; clouds racing over prairie swells; herds of cattle grazing on the sandhills; red barns and white farmhouses surrounded by fields of tasseling corn and ripening wheat; windmills and wire fences; and men and women who take their living from the soil.

Statehood came in 1867, and many of the old inhabitants can remember the land before it was touched by the plowshare. Corn grows on slopes where buffalo once grazed. Tractors pull plows and harrows over land where the war whoops of Sioux and Pawnee once echoed. Spades turn up the remnants of old Indian villages and the bones of ancient dinosaurs. Graves mark the routes of the great overland trails.

Here the Middle West merges with the West. The farms and small towns in the eastern half suggest the rich, more densely populated country of Iowa and Illinois. The cities have much of the fast tempo and business-like ways that prevail in the larger cities of the Midwest. But, in western Nebraska, fields give way to the great cattle ranches of the sandhill area, life is more leisurely and manners are more relaxed. Something of the Old West still survives—a cowboy riding hard against the sky, a herd of white faces coming down from the hills to water, bawling calves at branding time. Here neighbors think nothing of strolling across a mile or two of prairie to pay an evening call, and one can travel for hours without finding a sign of human habitation. On the high plateaus of the Panhandle, where the wind cuts along the broad valley of the Platte, rocks and buttes rise. Occasionally a coyote may be seen crossing a “blowout” hollowed by the wind among the dunes.

In the hundreds of small country towns that dot the State, life revolves around the lodges and clubs. Influences sift through from the two coasts by way of magazines, movies, and radio, but the talk is predominantly of crops and weather, grasshoppers, chinch bugs, and the price of cattle and hogs.

The farm region has suffered much in the past from years of drought, insect pestilence, and depression. But debt-ridden farmers seed their fields

again. It is this determination to remain on the land, this never-ending struggle of human strength and will against natural forces, that characterizes the Nebraska temperament. The pioneers watched their crops shrivel under the hot winds and drought, yet they doggedly plowed their corn rows; old Jules Sandoz saw his sandhill orchard beaten to the ground by hailstones, and planted his trees again. These men changed a wilderness into a State of productive farms and ranches. Many of their holdings are now heavily mortgaged or have passed into the hands of absentee landlords; but few among their descendants, even though they may be prepared to follow other occupations, can be persuaded that they belong elsewhere than on the land.

Much of the soil is still fertile, but rainfall is often insufficient, and sun and winds play havoc with the land. Today many Nebraskans are concerned with the issues of conservation of water resources, defenses against soil erosion, new and better ways of farming, and the development of public power projects. In thickly settled eastern counties, many farmers look with favor upon programs of rural electrification and planned agriculture. But in western counties pioneering in the old sense still continues to some extent. Families living in cheap frame and sod houses, often twenty miles or more from the nearest town, depend on their individual effort to fight the hazards of nature.

Only two of Nebraska's cities have populations of more than 25,000—Omaha with 214,000 and Lincoln with 79,000. In Omaha an industrial present overlays the not remote past of a great cattle and railroad town. Lincoln, with its university, churches, and its modern Capitol, represents (in contrast) the political and educational aspirations of innumerable small towns and farms. Its educators train youths as vigorous as the farms to which, in large measure, they will return; its legislators arrive fresh from talking to their constituents face to face. People take a personal and peculiarly close interest in government. This, along with a tenacious love of the land, is a characteristic trait.

The State's two most important annual gatherings are held at Omaha and Lincoln: the Ak-Sar-Ben at Omaha, renowned for its pageantry, and the State Fair at Lincoln. At the fair, town and country meet in lively confusion. It is at once holiday and farm institute. The crowds look with pride and interest at great exhibits of livestock, of prize vegetables and flowers, of improved farm machinery and implements. The fair represents all Nebraska.

That Nebraskans are practical in temper—a trait growing out of their continual struggle for life—has been shown frequently by their choice of

leaders regardless of caste or political label. The man and his actions are what count. In the election of 1936, the confusion of usual party lines in Nebraska was the cause of Nation-wide amusement: Democrats and Republicans supported each other or went to the aid of Independents in whatever way they considered expedient.

The careers of the two most colorful Nebraskans in national life—William Jennings Bryan and Senator George W. Norris—though apparently dramatic anomalies, follow the Nebraska pattern. It was Bryan's close touch with the everyday world, the simplicity and honesty of his views—progressive at the time—that endeared him to his State. Senator Norris, through his long years as champion of conservation and the use of the Nation's resources for the benefit of all, has won support at home by his understanding of the needs and problems of the common man.

Influenced by the industrial development of the East and by the independence and individualism of the West, Nebraska seems to follow a middle course of liberalism rooted in the soil. Despite the contrasts in topography, it is unified by its small towns and rural districts where each man knows his neighbor.



Natural Setting

Geography and Climate

IN 1842, Lieut. John C. Frémont led an expedition to explore the country lying between the Kansas and Platte Rivers. On his return, he attempted to descend the Platte, but gave up the venture after dragging his boat for three or four miles over the sandy bottom of the river. In his report to the Government he wrote: "The names given by the Indians are always remarkably appropriate; and certainly none was ever more so than that which they have given to this stream—the Nebraska, or Shallow River!"

When the Secretary of War read the report and noted this Indian name for the Platte River, he suggested it as the name for the new Territory west of the Missouri River. This Territory extended from the Missouri River to the Rocky Mountains and from the fortieth parallel to the Canadian border, including wholly or in part the present States of Nebraska, Kansas, North Dakota, South Dakota, Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana. The name of the Territory became that of the new State on March 1, 1867.

The State of Nebraska is a little north of the geographic center of the United States, and the greater part of its area lies in the Great Plains, between the Rocky Mountains and the Central Lowland. The Missouri River, the only natural boundary of the State, separates Nebraska from Missouri and Iowa on the east and from part of South Dakota on the northeast. South Dakota bounds the State on the north, Wyoming and Colorado on the west, and Colorado and Kansas on the south.

According to the latest computations, the total area of Nebraska is 77,-520 square miles, of which 712 are water surface. The surface as a whole slopes to the southeast. Altitudes range from about 825 feet in the southeastern corner of Richardson County to about 5,430 feet in western Banner County. The topography is somewhat diversified, but in general about half of the area is of the Dissected Plains type (much eroded moraine

country), and the remainder is made up of constructional plains, as yet mostly undissected by erosion.

The eastern end of the State, a strip averaging about seventy miles in width and paralleling the Missouri River, is part of the Dissected Till Plains. The Loess Region, a triangular area of approximately 42,000 square miles underlain by thick loess deposits, extends over the southwestern half of the State. Of this, about 14,000 square miles remain uneroded.

The Sandhills region in the north central and central western part of the State is the most clearly defined topographic subdivision and occupies about 20,000 square miles, including some small outlying areas. It is more suitable for grazing than cultivation. The surface is a rolling plain of wind-blown sand and dunes lying on ridges and hills of eroded bedrock formations. The sand is now largely stationary, for the roots of prairie grasses and other vegetation have checked wind erosion.

The remainder of the State, a little more than 15,000 square miles, is made up of undissected high bedrock plains or tables, rough broken areas, and valley plains and terraces. Some of the higher land in the western part is used for grazing, and some for the growing of wheat, potatoes, and hay. The sugar beet is a principal crop in the irrigated valleys.

The Platte River is the main stream of the State, and is formed by the confluence of the North and South Platte Rivers east of the city of North Platte. From this point its valley is wide and flat until, at Ashland, it enters the narrow bedrock gorge which it follows to the Missouri River at Plattsmouth. The elevation of the Platte River above sea level is about 2,760 feet at North Platte and decreases gradually to 1,180 feet at Fremont. The upland plain between these points descends from an elevation of 200 to 300 feet above river level to 100 or 150 feet. The North Platte River enters the State from Wyoming and flows through a fertile irrigated valley for about 180 miles to its junction with the South Platte River east of North Platte. The North Platte Valley is nearly 800 feet deep at Scottsbluff, and from 200 to 300 feet below the uplands at North Platte. The elevation of the North Platte River above sea level ranges from more than 4,000 feet at the Wyoming State Line to about 2,760 feet east of North Platte. Pumpkin Creek, Blue Water Creek, and Birdwood Creek are the main tributaries in Nebraska.

The discharge of the South Platte River, which enters the State from Colorado, is variable and leaves a dry bed in the summer. It flows at elevations above sea level ranging from about 3,430 feet at the Colorado State Line and 3,200 feet near Ogallala, to 2,760 feet where it joins the North Platte. The uplands along the South Platte range from 200 to 300

feet above the river level. Lodgepole Creek, its most important tributary, flows eastward through Kimball, Cheyenne, and Deuel Counties, and leaves the State to enter the South Platte a few miles west of Julesburg, Colorado.

The Loup River is the largest tributary of the Platte, and is formed by the union of the North, Middle, and South Loup Rivers. These three streams originate in the Sandhills region, are fed by spring and seepage water, and flow southeastward through the Loess Hills region to the Platte River Valley. The well-defined valleys along their courses range in depth from shallow basins in their upper levels to depressions of from 100 to 200 feet in the lower reaches.

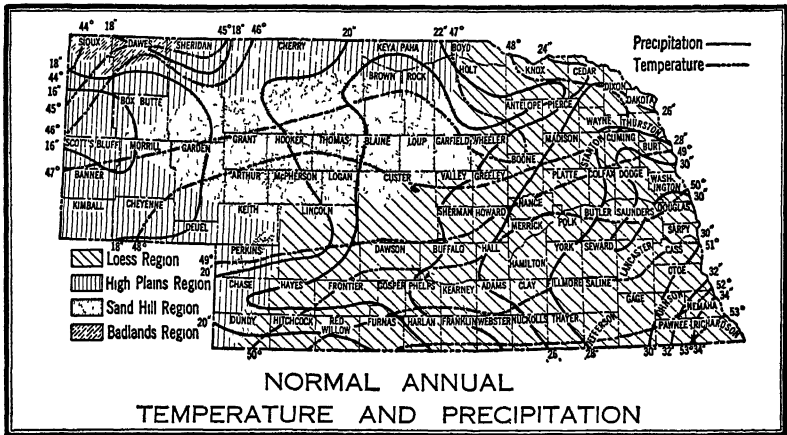
Large quantities of water are discharged from the Platte River Basin during the winter and spring months, but at times during the dry season the discharge shrinks to practically nothing in the region between Gothenburg and Columbus. This shrinkage is partly due to high evaporation, but perhaps mainly to the large seepage loss from the Platte Valley through the buried gravel sheets that dip away from the Platte to the southeast. Here this same water reappears in seepages and springs. In the dry season, the water discharged into the Missouri River from the Platte comes mainly from the Loup and Elkhorn Rivers.

The Elkhorn River heads in Brown County, flows for the most part through a wide flat valley, and drains much of the prairie plains, portions of the high plains tables, and a large area of the Loess Hills of northeast Nebraska. Where it enters the Platte River Valley the upland plain is from 100 to 150 feet above river level.

The Niobrara River, the largest crossing the northern part of the State, is mainly a Nebraska stream. It is normally only a few feet wide where it enters the State in Sioux County, but it increases gradually to a small river where it leaves the high plains and enters the sandhills in the middle part of its course. Several important and many small tributaries flow into the Niobrara River from deep canyons on either side. The more important are Snake Creek, Gordon Creek, Minnechadusa Creek, Plum Creek, Long Pine Creek, Keyapaha River, and Verdigre River. The elevation above sea level of the Niobrara River at Agate is 4,440 feet, at Valentine 2,500 feet, and at Niobrara 1,250 feet.

The Republican River, near the Kansas-Nebraska line, drains the southern part of the Nebraska Plain and the more dissected areas of the Loess region south of the Platte River. A few well-developed tributaries enter it from the south, and a great many smaller streams flow into it from the north. The Big Blue River, tributary of the Kansas Blue River, drains a

part of the Dissected Till Plains and the eastern end of the Nebraska Plain; its valley ranges in depth from 50 to 60 feet in its upper course to from 130 to 150 feet near Wymore. The West Blue, its chief tributary, is 88 miles long. The Little Blue River crosses the Nebraska Loess Plain, and its drainage basin lies almost wholly within this area. The Big and the Little Blue join in Kansas, about 20 miles south of the State line.



Each of the three regions of the State has distinct climatic characteristics; the western tablelands, for example, are generally cooler in summer than the eastern plains, owing to the difference in elevation. All the regions, however, have in common the variability of typical inland climate. Averages have little meaning. While the normal mean annual temperature is 48.7° F. and the average range of temperature from winter to summer around 100 degrees, Nebraskans have shivered near stoves when it was 47° below zero and have sought coolness in cellars when temperatures were up to 118°. The normal winter mean is about 20°, and the summer 75°. The average date for the beginning of winter is December 6, but this season may start as early as October or as late as January. The climate is generally healthful. The proportion of cloudless days is high, the relative humidity, on the average, is low, and fogs or mists are few.

Throughout the year the northwest wind generally prevails, but the hot winds of summer blow from the south or southwest. A type of west wind called the *chinook* blows across the Rockies into northwestern Nebraska, causing that corner of the State to be warmer in winter than some other regions in the same latitude.

The cyclonic areas that bring most rainfall to the State (the southwest-northeast disturbances) fortunately reach Nebraska during the growing season. Rainfall, however, is not evenly distributed over the State, the eastern part having almost twice as much rain as the western. For this reason population is greater in the east; so also the proportion of land under cultivation and the value of farm lands.

The more devastating of Nebraska's droughts occurred in the years 1894, 1934, and 1936; and the State's severest winters were those of 1857, 1873, 1881, and 1936. The periods between winter and summer have usually been pleasant. Spring has changeable weather; fall brings the most clement weather and colorful countrysides of the year.

Geology and Paleontology

When Nebraska is divided into natural regions on the basis of soil, consideration is given only to that thin layer of earth lying nearest the surface, which is continually being formed by the action of plants, animals, and weathering. The material lying under this topmost layer, the parent material from which soil is made, is sometimes called the mantle-rock, as contrasted with the hard bedrock beneath.

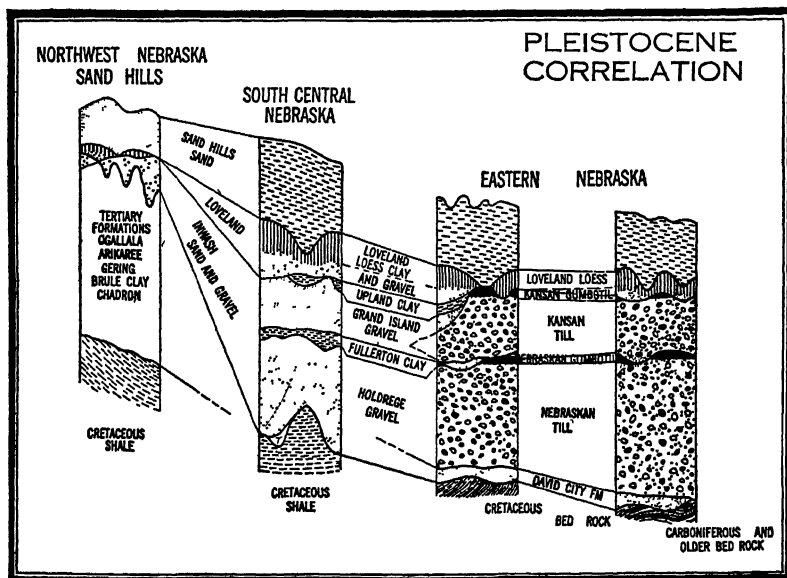
The formation of this mantlerock, or soil-stuff, was largely the work of four agents—water, plant and animal life, ice, and wind. The chief work of the ice was completed several thousand years ago, when the last of the glaciers melted. The process of glacial earth formation may be thought of somewhat as follows: A glacier came down from the north, carrying in its frozen mass a layer of boulders, sand, and fine ground rock picked up from the land surfaces it overrode. Eventually the ice melted and a layer of rock, sandy earth, or till was left. Such was the genesis of much of the mantlerock in eastern Nebraska, the only glaciated part of the State.

As the ice slipped down across eastern Nebraska, it dammed certain eastward-flowing rivers. In consequence, the sand and gravel carried by these streams were deposited in the river valleys. Later, when the glacier melted, the water flowed away in great sheets and rivers, taking with it some of the finer soil. In this manner layers of the mantlerock formed in the central part of the State, beyond the glacial path. This process occurred twice in eastern Nebraska, which was covered by both the Nebraskan and Kansan ice sheets.

During the eras between glaciers, before grass and shrubs had time to grow, the winds began their part in distributing fine soil. When a farmer's wife finds red Oklahoma dust on her cabbage patch after a storm, she

is observing the same process as that which did much to create Nebraska's loess—the rich yellow-gray earth of the eastern and southern portions. This Peorian loess, named for the last of the interglacial periods, is the result partly of glacial action and rainwash, but mainly of wind action that brought soil from the desert regions in the west.

The various strata formed by glacial and wind action are shown in the figure "Pleistocene Correlation." In the western part of the State, marked "NW. Nebraska Sand Hills," these deposits form a relatively thin layer,



mantling an eroded terrain of preglacial (Tertiary) sediments; the top sand is the material left after the fine silt and clay had been sifted out by the winds. South central Nebraska has a heavier deposit, being nearer the glacial region. The two layers of gravel at the bottom of the cross section, the Holdrege and Grand Island formations, are the results of river sedimentation, and of inwash to and outwash from the Nebraskan and Kansan Glaciers; each is from 40 to 100 feet thick; and each has a thin layer of interglacial clay above it.

The Holdrege and Grand Island gravel strata are of great economic importance to the State. They supply most of central Nebraska's ground water and are the medium through which water seeps away from the Platte

Valley to the southeastern part of the State, reappearing there in the form of springs that feed the Republican, Big Blue, West Blue, and Little Blue Rivers. The two gravel layers with their dividing clay layer are called the Platte series. Just above the Platte series is the Loveland loess-clay; this layer with the wind-blown loess above it constitutes the Plains series.

The cross sections of eastern Nebraska are similar to these, the principal difference being that here the glacial deposits consist of till left directly by the ice, rather than of washed-in sand and gravel. The David City formation at the bottom of this cross section is a gravel layer of early glacial origin. How the strata continue into Iowa is shown in the section on the right of the figure.

The younger strata of the bedrock are rich in fossil remains. Since 1852 the fossil beds of Nebraska have received almost constant attention from paleontologists, and they continue to yield species of animal life previously unknown. For example, the shovel-tusked mastodon was discovered here in 1927, and shortly afterward the same kind of fossil remains were reported in the Gobi Desert. Thanks to the liberal financial support of the late Charles H. Morrill, the Nebraska State Museum has been able to support completely equipped expeditions in the field since 1893. The chief fossil beds in the State are at Agate in Sioux County, 23 miles south of Harrison on State Highway 29, and in Sheridan County, about 16 miles south of Hay Springs.

Paleontological research in Nebraska owes much to Dr. Erwin Hinckley Barbour, veteran paleontologist and director of the Nebraska State Museum. The Morrill expeditions under his direction have made important contributions to science. The researches of Dr. George E. Condra and others of the Nebraska Geological Survey have thrown invaluable light on the invertebrates of the Pennsylvanian and other early strata.

Nebraska strata provide significant indications of the great "Age of Mammals." More than 60 million years ago a continental uplift took place during which the Rocky Mountains were formed. Fresh-water streams pouring down from the newly formed mountains fed the brackish lakes that remained as the last remnants of the Cretaceous Sea. Slowly these lakes became fresh. The climate was semi-tropical and the vegetation correspondingly luxuriant. Toward the close of this period, called the Cretaceous, the warm-blooded mammals appeared. Small and insignificant, but agile, they were destined to replace the dominant saurians of the earlier world.

Exposures in Nebraska of the next, or Tertiary period, include the Brule clay of the northwestern Badlands, and the Chadron formations. The



CHALK BLUFFS, NIOBRARA RIVER

country at that time was apparently very flat, and in seasons of flood great regions were covered with shallow temporary ponds. These, along with deposits of volcanic ash, helped to preserve the bones of many animals. The decreasing number of warmth-loving species (such as the crocodile) found in these deposits indicates that the climate was becoming cooler.

The huge animals commonly known as titanotheres were the largest creatures of this period. At first small and hornless, they developed greater and greater proportions, sometimes reaching a length of 14 feet and a height of 10 feet at the shoulder. Powerful and heavy-bodied, their appearance became even more impressive with the development of massive, flattened, and shovel-like horns extending beyond the snout. The animals were browsers and it is likely that the coming of the grasses, which replaced the more succulent vegetation of the lower Oligocene, resulted in their extinction and the rise of the herbivores.

Common also are the oreodonts, an exceedingly numerous and varied group of animals slightly piglike in appearance and size. They must have lived in great numbers in the forests and along the streams, feeding upon the vegetation of the time. It is generally agreed that the camel, commonly regarded as an Old World animal, is also American in origin, and its progenitors are recognizable in the Oligocene. The Oligocene horses



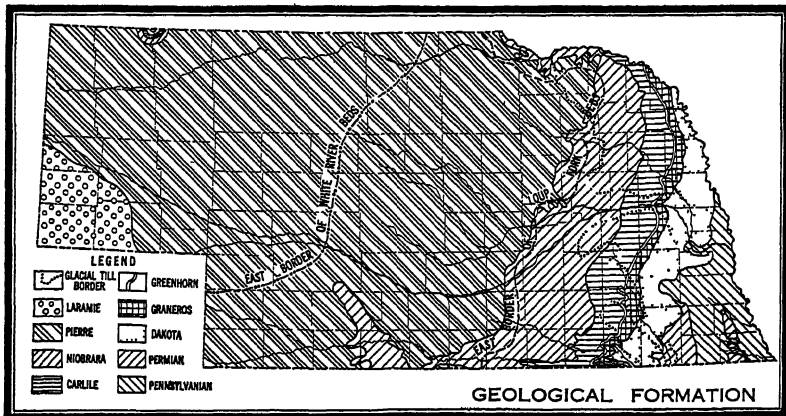
SKELETON OF LARGEST MAMMOTH, NEBRASKA STATE MUSEUM, LINCOLN

were already well started on their evolutionary road, but were still considerably smaller than modern sheep; they were three-toed, and had teeth adapted only for browsing upon soft vegetation. Their future development awaited the rise of the great grasslands.

The next epoch, the Miocene, is a long period which has been estimated as beginning some twenty million years ago and extending approximately eighteen million years to the Pliocene. The climate which probably today would be called subtropical, was nevertheless becoming imperceptibly cooler.

Unusual animals of this period were the horned gophers, the huge *Dinohyus*, a primitive type of pig six feet or more in height with formidable tusks and head, grazing camels, and tall browsing giraffe-camels with very long necks and legs. Saber-toothed tigers as well as true cats had increased in size, and there were huge bearlike dogs. Browsing horses were still present, but true grazing types were developing and replacing the older forms. An odd shambling beast called *Moropus*, distinctly related to the horse, also existed. Unlike the horse, however, he was equipped with a set of large claws, which he probably used to uproot edible tubers.

With the coming of Pliocene time additional forms of the mastodon appeared, a few of which had been found in the upper Miocene. But the period is comparatively little known, and it was not until the oncoming glaciation at the close of the Pliocene caused a crisis in living conditions all over the world that any striking changes appear in the geological chronology in Nebraska.



The yellow loess representing various stages of the Pleistocene, as well as the deposits from the melting ice, left a graphic record of the changing climatic conditions in the State, which five times lay partially under or at the very edge of the advancing ice sheets. The time-range of that epoch is generally estimated at a million years. The Pleistocene and recent times together are generally taken as representing the Quaternary or "Age of Man," as contrasted to the Tertiary, which is regarded as the "Age of Mammals."

The movement southward of northern life before the edge of the advancing ice sheets brought many typical northern species into Nebraska. The advances and withdrawals of the ice sheets were accompanied by similar changes in the fauna corresponding to the warm and cold periods, the duration of a single warm or cold period extending over many thousands of years. It is unlikely that the great proboscide hordes that swarmed over Nebraska throughout the Pleistocene were all adapted to endure such temperatures as the woolly mammoth could withstand. From their peculiar adaptations it may be inferred that they fed upon succulent aquatic plants during interglacial times.

The giant beaver, the largest known rodent of past or modern times, approximating the black bear in size, inhabited Nebraska. This animal originated in America in the early Pleistocene and disappeared along with the camels. Both the horse and the camel are known from apparently later deposits in the Southwest, but they have not as yet been recorded from Nebraska deposits following the Iowa glaciations. The musk-ox, typically Arctic, is known from deposits correlating with the time of the second glacial period.

The great imperial mammoth disappeared comparatively late, probably in the short interglacial period preceding the onset of the final Wisconsin ice. Its extinction probably marks the disappearance of the western forests, as its tooth structure indicates that it was a browsing animal. The woolly mammoth apparently came late in the Pleistocene. It was a grazing animal, and survived the final glaciation only to disappear at its close.

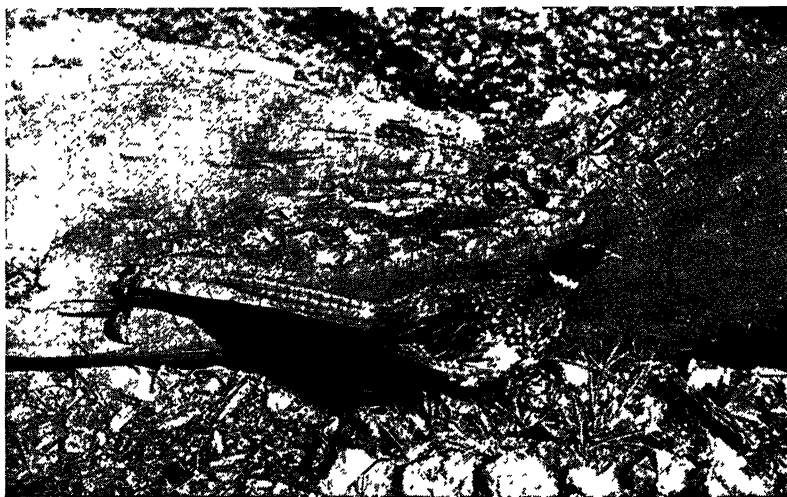
The bison are represented by several huge and long-horned specimens. As the end of the Pleistocene approached, they tended to grow smaller in size and to resemble more closely the modern species. There is some difficulty in determining whether or not one or two of these forms became extinct either before or after the final glaciation, though evidence from other areas shows that several forms, at one time regarded as having become extinct in the Middle Pleistocene, actually survived into its closing phase.

Animal Life

Of the animals known to the early settlers of Nebraska, many are now found only in zoos or on game reserves. Best known of these vanishing types are the buffalo, the pronghorn antelope, and the mule deer. Grizzly bears have been known to range into Nebraska, but not in recent years; and the beaver, abundant in the early days of the fur trade, is now seldom found.

Among animals still common in the State are the coyote, kit fox, jack-rabbit, badger, striped ground squirrel, and prairie dog, whose characteristic "towns" are often a refuge for the prairie rattler. Smaller rodents are numerous and are probably increasing since the wholesale destruction of so many birds of prey. In the woodlands the porcupine, woodrat, and red squirrel are still plentiful. The skunk is common over the entire State.

Prairie chickens, grouse, and various migrating waterfowl, while still present, must have been far more abundant in the prehistoric past. In the sandhill country with its numerous small lakes and ponds, water birds still breed in large numbers. This area was probably avoided by the great buf-



PHEASANT

falo herds, because of its sparse pasturage, so thin that many acres are necessary to support one cow. Nevertheless, birds and small mammals, including the raccoon, are still abundant in the brushy areas of wild plum, sagebrush, and greasewood. Sand cherries, wild plums, raspberries, and large quantities of small seed provide excellent food for birds.

Partly to assist the farmers in the destruction of insect pests, the State Game Commission imported a few dozen pheasants in 1915. Three varieties were included: the Chinese ringnecked, the English ringnecked, and the Mongolian. During the next decade approximately 500 pairs were imported. The pheasants now in the State, some three million in number according to an estimate made in 1936, are a mixture of the original varieties.

The broadleaf forests of the Missouri bluff and bottomlands in the eastern section of the State contain a fauna similar to that of the woodlands in eastern States. The wooded ravines, marshes, ponds, and shifting sandbars provide a varied habitat, in contrast to the western grasslands.

This topographical variety in the State helps to account for the large number of birds that live in Nebraska or pause here during migration. Common among the more than 400 species known in the State are the robin, most familiar of early-spring singers, the sparrow, who plagues the farmer by nesting in hen houses; and the blackbird, noisiest in the fall when his tribe holds convention before going south. Mourning doves are

numerous; every motorist knows their habit of alighting on country roads and not taking flight till a car is almost upon them. Any old-fashioned barn in the State is likely to have its flock of wild pigeons, and maybe an owl or two. Barn swallows build their mud nests in stables and hoghouses; in the evening they like to swoop down across the farmyard and tease the cats.

Meadowlarks might be more numerous if they did not build their nests on the ground; even so, they are common enough to be called the State bird. Mocking birds have been heard in the State, but the best singing bird that is commonly known is the brown thrush. Its twin phrases, remarkably varied, are nothing like the harsh angry burr with which it threatens anyone who comes near the nest. Wrens and martins are occasionally seen. Catbirds, orioles, woodpeckers, crows, and jays are all well known to Nebraskans. Hawks are less numerous than they should be; farmers too often shoot any hawk as a chicken thief, although many species do no harm and are valuable in killing insects and rodents.

Ducks and geese in their seasons of flight make Nebraska lakes and ponds their feeding grounds. The season in which they may be hunted is at present fixed by Federal authority. Tamest of migratory birds is the pink-breasted Franklin gull that swoops around the plowman and alights on the freshly turned earth to hunt for food. Some farmers believe they can prophesy rain by the behavior of these gulls or by that of mourning doves, "rain crows," and killdeer.

Many of the fish that live in Nebraska rivers and creeks come up from the Missouri River and its tributaries. The average Nebraska fisherman thinks mostly in terms of carp, catfish, crappies, and bullheads (species of catfish); he knows the sunfish by its colors, the crawfish because it steals his bait. In the streams of western Nebraska are trout; in the lakes are bass. Other fish caught in the State are perch, suckers, wall-eyed pike, buffalo fish, and pickerel. Frogs, eels, and turtles are also found.

Plant Life

Plant life in Nebraska shows striking differences due to the two dissimilar grass areas. One, lying north of an imaginary line drawn from the southwest corner of the State to the mouth of the Niobrara, is rather arid; the other, lying below this line, is more humid.

The vast plains of the western portion of the State, when first entered by the white man, were covered with the short perennial grasses that gave this territory its name—"the short grass country." The dominance of this

type of grass is due to the scanty rainfall which is seldom over 20 inches annually. Cactus and other desert plants are found locally where conditions are favorable, as in the neighborhood of the Badlands. Pines along the higher slopes of Wildcat Range and Pine Ridge migrated into these areas from farther west. The forests of the Pine Ridge country, along with those of the Niobrara and Lodgepole districts, include an area of some 500 square miles. They are made up mostly of western yellow pine and some red cedar, although certain other coniferous trees, like Norway pine and white spruce, have been introduced. Birches grow in the canyons of the Pine Ridge country.

In the eastern half of Nebraska, where rainfall is heavier and extends over a longer period, the total available ground water is seldom exhausted. Under these favorable conditions the tall prairie grass appears. It begins to grow much earlier in the season than does the short western species. Most of the trees now peculiar to eastern Nebraska (excepting introduced types such as the tree of heaven) migrated into the State from the south and southeast along the Missouri and its tributaries. Among these are the oak, basswood, sycamore, and hickory, found along the bluffs of southeastern Nebraska.

Certain trees are common to both eastern and western Nebraska—the cottonwood, for example, which provided shelter, fuel, and building logs for the pioneers. Willows are common in all the valley bottoms, along with the elm, the ash, and box elder. Walnut trees are sometimes planted and cultivated; they also grow wild along the rivers. Shells found in the refuse from early Indian villages show that walnuts were long used as food by the aborigines. The hackberry is distributed over all the State and is an ancient form, being known from fossil deposits of previous geological periods.

Among native shrubs and smaller trees are the wild plum and chokecherry, both utilized by the earliest inhabitants of Nebraska. The Osage-orange, which is common as a hedge in eastern Nebraska, is a comparatively recent introduction.

Nebraska has also a considerable number of wild flowers, including the violet, wild rose, larkspur, phlox, spiderwort, blueflag, poppy, mallow, waterlily, petunia, columbine, yellow ladyslipper, and several species of anemone, as well as the goldenrod and sunflower. In years when winds and drouth are not too severe, the variety and number of wild flowers are particularly remarkable in parts of the western tablelands, as in Scotts Bluff County. Well before the last snows, often before the last zero weather, the first flowers—tiny blossoms of dwarf moss-phlox—appear on

the southern edges of high ridges. They are sun worshippers—the whole south side of a clump may be fully in bloom, while only scattered blossoms appear on the north side. A small townsendia with half a dozen daisylike blossoms, about an inch from the ground, also blooms early in this same area.

Later in the season, when the early rains have come, there are flowers throughout the whole region from the highest ridges to the lowest Badlands. On the hopelessly unproductive Brule Clay appear clumps of yellow umbels above pinnate leaves—for a time the dominant Badlands flower; it is the *pseudocymopterus*, and has no common name. Masses of tiny-flowered orophaca with their lavender blossoms grow in patches several square feet in area. In addition there are vetches, evening-primroses, and phlox of several species. In the grass just off the Badlands a common flower is Nuttall's violet with its ovate-lanceolate leaves and small yellow flowers.

Soapweed (*Yucca angustifolia*), a species of lily, grows in a variety of places from low plains to ridge tops; the bladelike leaves hold their green through even the severest winters, and in season the plant bears cream-colored blossoms on a stout stem.

In late spring or early summer wild roses of two or three species appear, generally in or bordering ravines. One of the more common is the prickly rose (*Rosa acicularis*) with purple-red buds and pink blossoms, similar to the common wild rose of Northern Europe and Asia. An occasional Mariposa lily is found. There are several species of mustard, with yellow flowers and curious handle bar seed pods.

One of the larger summer flowers is Fremont's primrose; its blossoms, about two inches in diameter, are pale lemon-yellow, but as they age and begin to fade they pass through shades of yellow-orange, orange, and orange-red. Pentstemon appears in many species, an upright plant with bunches of trumpet-shaped flowers, generally white or blue. At least five species of cactus bloom in the summer; the flowers are of delicate texture, yellow or rose. Low mallows with salmon-colored flowers line the roadsides; also gaura, with reddish blossoms.

In early fall the cleome comes into bloom, showing loose clusters of lavender-pink blossoms along the roads. This plant is used in decorative planting, and its seeds are often gathered for turkey feed. In fall, too, appear the only mass formations of flowers, acres of sunflowers of several species, most of them native. Some reach maturity and full bloom at a height of only six inches, and these patches furnish good shooting grounds, as pheasants have a liking for sunflower seed. The goldenrod,

Nebraska's State flower, is a close rival of the sunflower in its profusion of bloom.

The fall-blooming *Chrysothamnus* is a bushy plant from two to seven feet high, known in New Mexico as "rabbit-brush." It is related to the goldenrod and bears great masses of yellow flowers, completely dominating its area and lasting in full bloom until killed by cold weather.

Late in the year comes *Mentzelia*, which grows in the worst Badlands. The starry cream-colored blooms resemble waterlilies and open only at night or on cloudy days.

Natural Resources and Their Conservation

The most valuable of Nebraska's natural resources is the soil, capable of producing crops with comparatively meager rainfall. More than half the top soil of the State is underlain by deposits of rich wind-blown loess; and the alluvial lands of the river valleys are very fertile. Since trees cover only about three percent of the State's total area, the forests are of little actual value as timber. But following the creation of the Nebraska National Forest in 1902, the benefits of forest groves as windbreaks and in the ultimate enrichment of soils have been generally recognized.

Sand and gravel are the most important commercially of the State's mineral resources. There are more than 75 large sand and gravel pits, situated mostly along the rivers in the southeastern part of the State. Although their output is used chiefly near the points of production for surfacing roads, making concrete, and other local purposes, considerable amounts are shipped to neighboring States.

At Lincoln, Hastings, Beatrice, Fairbury, Nebraska City, and other places in the eastern part of the State occur large outcrops of clay, suitable for the manufacture of brick, tile, and pottery. Limestone quarries have been opened near South Bend, Meadow, Louisville, Weeping Water, Roca, and other points in southeastern Nebraska, producing stone for building purposes, roadbeds, river improvement work, and the manufacture of cement. Chalk, shale, and limestone are also found and used in building.

Among mineral deposits with no present commercial importance are the extensive beds of volcanic ash located along the Republican River Valley. These have not been extensively worked in recent years because of cheaper production in neighboring States. The area around Lincoln has underground deposits of salt water.

All attempts to find paying quantities of oil and natural gas in Nebraska

have failed, but the search perhaps has not been sufficiently exhaustive. Small deposits of coal have been found in the eastern portion of the State, but the veins are not thick enough to make mining profitable.

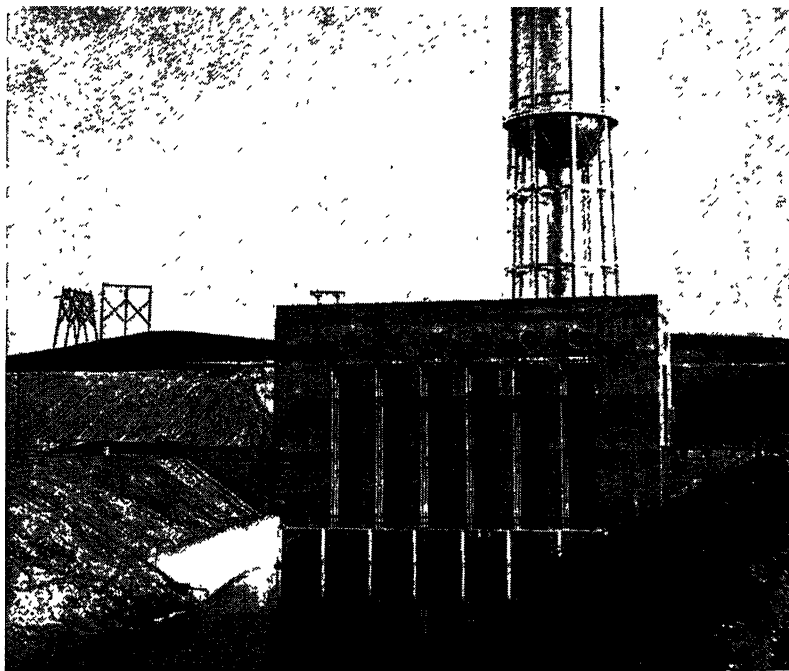
In addition to its rivers, Nebraska has a good supply of ground water that makes possible the steady flow of such rivers as the Loup, the Niobrara, and the Blue. The State as a whole has excellent well water and in many places the supply is great enough to make well-irrigation possible. Since the great droughts of 1934 and 1936 the people of Nebraska have become aware of the possibilities of irrigation. Their interest has been stimulated by successful crop production in irrigated districts and the availability of Federal funds for irrigation projects. The estimated extent of irrigation in the State is as follows: from canals with water diverted from streams, 570,000 acres; by pumping from ground water and streams, 60,000 acres; by subirrigation from ground water, 1,300,000 acres; by spraying from municipal and rural water supplies, 40,000 acres. The chief irrigated areas lie along the Platte and North Platte Rivers in Scotts Bluff, Morrill, Lincoln, Dawson and Buffalo Counties.

Projects under construction (1938) (*see Tours 8 and 12*) begin with the Kingsley Reservoir in Keith County where the waters of the North Platte River are impounded by the Kingsley Dam just west of Keystone. As part of the Sutherland Project, the dam not only stores water for irrigation and for conversion into electrical energy, but also diverts water from the river, which is conducted by a series of canals to the Sutherland Reservoir and to a power-house just south of the city of North Platte. Tail water is reconducted into the South Platte just above its junction with the North Platte.

Farther downstream on the Platte is the Tri-County Project, also called the Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation Project, which is designed to irrigate 557,000 acres south of the Platte River, in Gosper, Phelps, Kearney, and Adams Counties, and to produce power. It includes the Middle Diversion Dam, south of Lexington, the Plum Creek Reservoir, and the Johnson Canyon Power Plant.

The third important unit is the Loup River Power Project (*see Tours 3 and 8*), in Nance and Platte Counties, where the waters of the Loup River are impounded by the Genoa Diversion Dam, carried to the Monroe Power Plant and the Columbus Power Plant. This project is designed to supply power to the cities of Columbus, Norfolk, Fremont, Sioux City, Lincoln, and Omaha.

In the spring of 1934 the Soil Conservation Service, in cooperation with the college of agriculture and the conservation and survey division of the



SUTHERLAND POWER HOUSE

university, began work on a soil-and-water-saving program. The Works Progress Administration and the Resettlement Administration have also done work along the same line. The complete soil-erosion control program for Nebraska includes gully control, contour farming, strip cropping, terracing, construction of ponds and reservoirs, winter cover-crops, systematic crop rotation, pasture-land management, and protection against prairie and forest fires.

The work of reforestation in Nebraska has just begun. In time the forest resources will be enlarged through discovery of trees suitable for the region and through systematic planting. The two national forest reserves in Nebraska, Bessey Division (*see Tour 7*) and Halsey Division (*see Tour 10*), have already demonstrated that certain types of pines will thrive even in the sandhill areas. The United States Forest Service has planted several million young trees in a narrow tract of land extending across the State from north to south, known as the Shelter Belt, designed to check erosion and furnish timber. Other work of the service includes the planting

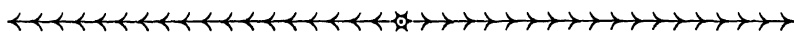


IRRIGATION

of trees on rough lands for timber, for demonstration purposes, and possible climatic effect.

Both Federal and State Governments have their place in the conservation program. The two national forests raise and distribute millions of small trees for planting throughout the State. The Federal Government also maintains sanctuaries for waterfowl in Garden and Cherry Counties, and a game reserve for buffalo, elk, antelope, and deer in Cherry County. There are two State game reserves—one in the Wild Cat Hills in Scotts Bluff County, and one at Niobrara in Knox County—and four State fish hatcheries. The hatcheries, occupying areas ranging from 30 to 200 acres, are located at Gretna, Benkelman, Rock Creek, and Valentine; all fish produced at these points are shipped to a "holding station" at Lincoln from which they are distributed to practically all the important streams

and lakes in the State. Finally, the Conservation and Survey Division of the University of Nebraska is studying the wildlife habitats of the State. This biological survey will be used as a basis for the future activities of the Nebraska Game, Forestation, and Parks Commission.



Indians

Prehistoric Culture

THE Plains Region, of which Nebraska is a part, has no such spectacular and impressive evidences of the past as exist in the Southwest or Old Mexico. There are no great ruins, no carved monuments resisting the centuries. At one time the Plains area was considered archeologically barren. But today a different view prevails, largely owing to the efforts of the Nebraska State Museum, the Department of Sociology of the University of Nebraska, the State Historical Society at Lincoln, and local collectors. The discoveries made during the past few years in this State and surrounding territory have aroused the attention of many scientists.

A series of striking finds, made by the Morrill Paleontological Expeditions of the University of Nebraska, consisted of artifacts and the bones of extinct bison in old loess deposits. These finds established the presence in the western portion of the State of an extremely ancient culture, first reported from a site near Folsom, New Mexico, from which it takes its name: the Folsom culture. Conservative scientists estimate that this culture existed 10,000 to 12,000 years ago. The Plains at that time are believed to have been better watered than at present, owing to climatic conditions attendant upon the withdrawal of the last great ice sheet that extended into this area. Here primitive man hunted about the water holes of the slowly drying plains, and slew the last survivors of the glacial period—the giant bison, the musk ox, the mammoth. And here he left the strange grooved points, uniquely and beautifully worked, that have come to be known as Folsom points.

The Nebraska State Museum at Lincoln has an exhibition of artifacts belonging to this ancient culture, as well as restored and mounted skeletons of the extinct bison associated with them. The Nebraska State Historical Society Collections are on exhibition in the Capitol at Lincoln.

Investigations by Dr. W. D. Strong, Dr. E. H. Bell, Dr. W. R. Wedel, Mr. A. T. Hill, and others have revealed a moderate amount of cultural

variation among these early peoples. It appears that this section of the Plains was dominated twice by Indians possessing a purely hunting culture. Between these two periods was a third in which horticulture and hunting were of nearly equal importance. The first of the hunting periods is believed to have begun with the appearance of the Folsom people and to have lasted for an indefinite length of time. Doubtless on the high plains of western Nebraska the hunt always remained predominant, but in the central and eastern sections are traces of horticultural peoples. Though the young men of the farming tribes made long warlike journeys, farming operations were still carried on.

The oldest evidences of man in eastern Nebraska are known as the Sterns Creek culture and are found near Plattsmouth. This site also contains the oldest evidence of horticulture and pottery-making known in the State. Apparently the people lived in small surface houses with reed-thatched roofs, small poles, and bark walls. They had pottery with distinctive conical bases and scallop decorations around the rims. Stone artifacts are comparatively scarce. Work in bone seems to have been excellent: it included awls, needles, bone beads, and knapping tools of antelope horn. Dr. Strong, of the Bureau of Ethnology, believes that this culture is related to an early Algonkian woodland culture that entered the Plains from Iowa or Wisconsin. The woodland aspect is evident in the predominance of deer bones over those of bison.

Overlying the Sterns Creek culture, and therefore later in origin, is a second horizon on the eastern edge of the State, known as the Nebraska culture. These people lived in square or rectangular earth lodges, and grew maize. The number and variety of vegetal remains, as well as an abundance of bone hoes, indicate a fully developed horticulture. The people made good pottery, reddish brown in color, fairly well polished, and varying widely in size.

The Loess Plains, the tall-grass prairie crossed by the Platte and Republican and other rivers, is an area highly favorable for agriculture. Here the earliest horizon, known as the Upper Republican culture, was investigated under direction of A. T. Hill. In the villages most of the earth lodges were square in outline, but some were round. Graves were on the tops of hills. Shell ornaments were common, including pendants cut from conch-shells, apparently brought in by traders from the Gulf Coast. In one ossuary were wooden-disk ornaments covered with a layer of native copper. Various material traits common to the historic plains Indian are lacking, and to the expert eye the culture resembles that of the southeastern

United States. It is very probable that this culture, tentatively designated as Upper Republican, is prehistoric Pawnee.

Farther west in the area of the high plains, where rain was often inadequate for farming, is a site that is—from the standpoint of chronology—one of the most remarkable in the United States. On top of an isolated mesa known as Signal Butte, 4.5 miles south and 18 5 miles west of the city of Scottsbluff, a Smithsonian expedition under Dr. Strong excavated three distinct and superimposed levels of human occupation, separated by sterile layers of barren wind-borne deposit. The uppermost level is prehistoric and suggests a relationship to the Upper Republican culture in its ceramics; it is the only one in which pottery occurs.

The middle layer has been estimated on the basis of climate studies, still of a very tentative and uncertain nature. The material collected from this layer is rather scant and cannot be assigned to any culture with certainty, though it is now presumed to go back some 5,000 years. The bottom layer, exceedingly rich in material, contains small, leaflike arrow-points that may bear some distinct relationship to the Folsom culture. Flat awls, bone beads, worked shells, various types of knives and scrapers have also been found.

Recently Dr. Bell, of the University of Nebraska, has unearthed in old shelter caves in Cheyenne and Morrill Counties traces of intermittent occupation over considerable periods of time. The culture seems to have been quite uniform and there is much evidence of ceramic industry. The indications seem to be that the people were culturally related to the semisubterranean earth-lodge dwellers along the Platte and Republican farther east. The shelter-cave people may, in fact, have been seasonal hunting parties of the eastern tribes. The discovery of inhabited shelter caves is a new element in Nebraska archeology.

Other archeological sites along the Platte and the Loup Rivers have been excavated by Mr. Hill of the Nebraska State Historical Society Archeological Survey. These are called "protohistoric," that is, revealing the first faint evidences of contact with the white man. The earth lodges here are round, apparently having completed the transition (begun in the Upper Republican culture) from rectangular to circular. They still have the four-post central foundation of this earlier culture, however, and in some cases are more elaborate than the later houses of the historic Pawnee. The ceramic wares of these villages are also related to those of the later people, but are much more complex and finely finished.

The State Historical Society has given invaluable assistance to the devel-

opment of archeological research in Nebraska by inventing a special scientific technique for Plains archeology, subsequently adopted by the Smithsonian Institution and now in general use throughout the area. The society has explored more than 125 house sites in 30 villages, recovering several thousand specimens of prehistoric life. It has also created an archeological museum of Western Plains material in the State Capitol and has published four bulletins on Nebraska prehistoric life, and other special articles—a total of 544 pages and 120 illustrations, forming one of the largest bodies of scientific literature on Nebraska prehistoric people.

Historic Indians

The Pawnee. At the time of the Lewis and Clark Expedition (1804–1806) the Pawnee was the largest indigenous tribe of Nebraska Indians, their number probably reaching 10,000. There were four divisions: the Chau or Grand Pawnee with their villages on the south bank of the Platte opposite the site of Schuyler; the Kitkehaki or Republican Pawnee on the south side of the Republican River near Red Cloud; the Skidi or Loup (Wolf) Pawnee on the Loup fork of the Platte River; the Pitahauerat or Noisy Pawnee on the Platte near the Grand Pawnee. Shortly after 1804 these tribes became united on the Loup near Fullerton and were known as the Great Pawnee Nation.

According to their traditions, an early plague had cut their number in half. Within historic times other factors, chief among them the white man's diseases and liquors, further lessened their numbers. Although there were from 10,000 to 12,000 Pawnee in 1838, by 1861 only 3,400 remained in the Nebraska area. This decrease was caused largely by a cholera epidemic in 1849, which brought death to half of the Pawnee Nation.

The first treaty between the Pawnee and the United States was made at St. Louis, June 18-22, 1818. By the treaty of Fort Atkinson (Council Bluff) signed on September 28, 1825, the Pawnee acknowledged the supremacy of the Federal Government and agreed to submit all grievances to it for adjustment. In 1833 they ceded to the United States all their lands south of the Platte River, and in 1848 they sold an 80-mile strip on the Platte which included the Grand Island. By the treaty of Table Creek (Nebraska City), September 24, 1857, all their lands north of the Platte were assigned to the Government, excepting a tract on the Loup River (now Nance County) where their reservation was established. In 1875 the Pawnee tribes, ceding their Nebraska reserve, removed to Indian Terri-

tory in Oklahoma. The difficulties resulting from the last removal, however, caused many deaths. In 1879 there were only 1,440 Pawnee, and by 1906 their number had decreased to 649.

A state of almost incessant war existed between the Pawnee and their Indian neighbors—Sioux, Cheyenne, Crow, Arapaho, Comanche, Kiowa, and Osage. These feuds culminated in the summer of 1873 when a large hunting party of Pawnee, under Sky Chief, was surprised and defeated by twice the number of Sioux, a combined force of Brule Indians from Spotted Tail's band and Ogalalla from the Cut-off band. This last great battle between Indian tribes on American soil took place in Hitchcock County near Trenton.

Tension rarely occurred between the whites and the Pawnee. With the outbreak of the Sioux-Cheyenne War and following the Plum Creek and Little Blue massacre of August 1864, Frank North enlisted a company of Pawnee scouts to take the field against the warring tribes. During the early days of railroad building the famous "Pawnee battalion" protected the Union Pacific from attacks by hostile Indians.

Notwithstanding the hunting and fighting aspects of their culture, the Pawnee were essentially farmers. They raised corn, beans, melons, and tobacco in the river bottom-lands; the women did most of the work. Each family had a small plot of ground, one-fourth to one-half acre, to which it had the first right as long as the ground was cultivated. Wild fruit and game made up the balance of their food. Implements consisted of spades made of stone or flint bound to wooden handles, and hoes made from the shoulder-blades of buffalo. Each summer in June the Pawnee went off on a big buffalo hunt, leaving the crops to take care of themselves until they returned in September.

The Pawnee lived in permanent villages, earth huts, or lodges, and skin tepees. Their most characteristic home, the earth lodge, was made of mud with posts and poles as permanent upright bracing. Small poles, twigs, and grasses were used as binders. The lodges were built in circular form from 25 to 60 feet in diameter; the entrance, an addition usually extending to the east, was one-half the house diameter in length. The floor level was 10 to 35 inches lower than the ground level. A fireplace was in the center of the lodge, the smoke passing through an opening exactly above it.

The Pawnee tribal organization was based on village communities representing subdivisions of the tribe. Each village had its own name; its medicine bundle of sacred objects, and priests who had charge of the rituals and ceremonies associated with these objects; and its own council composed of hereditary chiefs and other leading men. The tribe was held



SPOTTED TAIL

together by two forces: the ceremonies pertaining to a common cult in which each village had its place and share, and the tribal councils made up of the chiefs of the different villages. The Pawnee Nation was united in a similar manner: its grand council being composed of the councils of the tribes. In the meetings of these councils, all questions touching the welfare of the tribe were debated.

War parties were always initiated by some individual and were made up of volunteers. When a village was attacked, the warriors fought under their chief or some other recognized leader. Buffalo hunts were tribal, and special policemen were appointed to maintain order and to see that each family got its share of the game. The meat was cut in thin strips, "jerked" (dried), and packed in parfleche cases for future use. This, along with maize, was regarded as a sacred gift; religious rites were connected with the planting, hoeing, and harvesting of the grain as well as with the building of Pawnee lodges. Basketry, pot-making, weaving, flint, stone, and bone work were practiced to some extent.

Pawnee braves shaved the head except for a narrow strip of hair from forehead to the scalp-lock which stood up like a horn. This ridge was called *pariki*, a corruption of which may have resulted in the word Pawnee. Beard and eyebrows were plucked, but tattooing was seldom done. A scarf was often tied around the head like a turban. Breechcloth and moccasins were the only essential parts of a man's clothing, although leggings and robes were worn in cold weather and on special occasions. Face painting was common, and heraldic insignia were frequently painted on tent-covers and on the robes and the shields of the men. Women wore their hair in two braids at the back; the parting as well as the face was painted red. Moccasins, leggings, and robes were the ancient feminine dress; later, skirts and tunics were worn. After marriage a man went to live with his wife's family and descent was traced through the mother. Polygamy was not uncommon.

Religious ceremonies associated with the cosmic forces and the heavenly bodies were observed by the Pawnee. The dominating power was Tirawa, generally spoken of as "father," and his messengers were the heavenly bodies, the winds, thunder, lightning, and rain. A series of rites, relating to the bringing of life and its increase, began with the first thunder in the spring, reached its climax in human sacrifice at the summer solstice and closed after the maize was harvested. At every stage of the series certain shrines or medicine bundles became the center of the ceremony. Each bundle was in the care of a hereditary keeper, but its rituals and ceremonies were conducted by a priesthood open to all proper aspirants. Secret soci-

eties, growing out of a belief in supernatural animals, existed in each tribe. Their functions were to call the game, to heal disease, and to confer occult powers. Their rites were elaborate, their ceremonies dramatic. The most impressive and lengthy of these, the Hako Ceremony, has been fully recorded by Alice Fletcher in the twenty-second annual report (1900-01) of the Bureau of American Ethnology.

The Oto and the Missouri. At the time of their earliest contact with the white man, the Oto were one of three related tribes (the Oto, the Iowa, and the Missouri), all belonging to the Chiwere group of Siouan linguistic stock. Unlike the Pawnee, the Comanche, and other Plains Indians, they appear never to have been numerous. In 1761 the Oto were located on the Platte River between its mouth and the Pawnee country to the west. Here they were found by Lewis and Clark in 1804, but the explorers record that the Oto had formerly lived on the Missouri River above Omaha. Later, greatly diminished by wars, the Oto migrated to the neighborhood of the Pawnee on the Platte River north of Ashland. They lived for a time under Pawnee protection and here were incorporated with the Missouri.

The ancient village site of the Oto was about ten miles north of Ashland. Its 200 earth lodges, each 30 or 40 feet in diameter, all faced the river front, with gardens on the subirrigated bottom and grazing fields in the rear. The Oto ceded part of their lands to the Government in 1833 and another part in 1854. With the coming of the white settlers, they were moved to a reservation near Beatrice in Gage County, which they relinquished in 1881, when they were removed to the Indian Territory.

The Oto were not warlike or aggressive. They were farmers, traders, and trappers, and were usually found in the neighborhood of some more powerful tribe—such as the Pawnee—whose protection they sought.

The Missouri Indians, according to tribal history, were attacked and almost annihilated in 1720 by the Sac, the Fox, and their allies. After this they were dispersed; five or six lodges joined the Osage, two or three took refuge with the Kansa, and the remainder joined the Oto, with whom they shared the same reservation, although for a time they retained their own chief and their own language. The Missouri as a tribe never ceded any land to the Government, but they were a party to the Oto transactions both in 1833 and in 1854. In 1881 their lands were taken along with those of the Oto, and they were sent to Oklahoma. The Oto and the Missouri together numbered 1,600 in 1836 and only 390 in 1906. A slight increase in population has taken place during more recent years.

The Oto and the Missouri seldom harmed the whites unless they were

balked in their attempts to prevent starvation by stealing food. They were more troublesome to settlers on Salt Creek than to any others in the eastern part of the State, but even here the threat was not so much to life as it was to property. Although these tribes obtained much of their living from the soil, they depended to some extent on the buffalo, and it was their custom to go on a buffalo hunt twice a year.

Of Oto tribal customs that survived through Nebraska reservation days, none, perhaps, was more singular than their method of disposal of the dead. They used no coffins, but placed the dead in a sitting position within a grave about four feet in depth, with an opening at the top only large enough to admit the body. The relatives joined in loud wailing while the old women, who dug the grave and whose duty it was to conduct the burial, placed a layer of heavy sticks and a buffalo robe or a blanket over the mouth of the tomb and piled earth upon it. Sometimes a pony, decorated with bright colors, would be strangled with a lariat at the graveside and left to be consumed by the wild animals. Then its skull was placed on top of the grave mound, and a piece of its tail or mane was attached to a pole beside the place of burial. Sometimes, especially when the ground was deeply frozen, the Oto did not bury their dead. Upon their reservation were two ancient oaks, standing within a few feet of each other, the limbs and forks of which were laden with the mummified remains of men, women, and children. These were wrapped in skins, old blankets, or bark, and bound with rawhide thongs so securely that no storm could dislodge them.

The Omaha. Long ago the name of this tribe was Maha. Their origin is obscure, but it is probable that they and other Siouan tribes came down the Ohio River to the Mississippi. Here some of them chose to go downstream, others upstream; the Maha were the "upstream-people." They lived near the mouth of the Missouri River for many years and then, with many other tribes, began a slow migration northward along the watercourse. Only the Ponca and the Iowa tribes accompanied them through present Missouri and Iowa to Minnesota. Here the Yankton Sioux made constant war on them and killed many of their number. They journeyed again, this time turning to the southwest into the region between the Missouri River and the Black Hills. The next migration of these three tribes took them down the river where the Ponca built a village at the mouth of the Niobrara, while the Iowa went on to Iowa Creek and later settled opposite the site of Florence. The Omaha, after living at Bow Creek, moved on down the stream and established themselves on an extensive tract of land in northeastern Nebraska, where they maintained permanent



OMAHA INDIAN VILLAGE

residence for more than two hundred years. In 1856 they were removed to a reserve in Thurston County. Numbering about 600 in 1804, the Omaha had increased to 1,400 by 1836. There were 1,276 in 1910, and since then their number has remained fairly constant.

Of all the Nebraska tribes the Omaha were most constantly friendly in their relations with the white man. During the days of State settlement they had no military class. Their chief, a civil and religious leader, could not lead a war party unless it was a very large one.

A few of the Omaha chieftains achieved distinction, among them Blackbird, who was very powerful, cruel, and tyrannical in his influence over the tribe. He destroyed those who displeased him, administering poisons, particularly arsenic, the use of which he learned from the traders who supplied the drug. About 1800 the Omaha were visited by a smallpox plague that killed off about two thirds of their number. Blackbird was one of the victims.

Big Elk, a worthy representative of this friendly tribe, sat in council with the members of Long's party in 1819, bringing four hundred of his warriors with him. Constantly affirming the friendship his people felt for the whites, this chief used persuasion rather than coercion. Traders and agents esteemed him as amiable, intelligent, and dependable. Always urg-

ing his followers to prepare for the white man's government and the pursuits of civilized life, he brought up his adopted son, Joseph La Flesche (Iron Eye), to succeed him. The latter, a French-Ponca by birth, was a chief of great wisdom and foresight. His son, Francis La Flesche, became the historian of the Omaha tribe.

The popular hero of the Omaha, Logan Fontenelle, son of a French trader and an Omaha woman, was killed in a battle with the Sioux on Beaver Creek in Boone County in 1855. Speaking English, French, and several Indian tongues, he was active in preserving peace between his people and the whites.

The Ponca. After several centuries of intermittent warfare and migrations, the Ponca settled on the Missouri at the mouth of the Niobrara River. Their hunting grounds extended west along this stream, where they met the various Sioux bands, principally the Oglala and the Brule. At first the Ponca were friendly with them and together they often fought the Pawnee. Originally they numbered about 1,000; but in 1804, according to the records of Lewis and Clark, the ravages of smallpox had greatly reduced their number.

During early Territorial days the Ponca lived quietly and peacefully in their green valleys and on their river islands, cultivating the rich lands. By 1856, however, the whites were crowding in upon them, and two years later a treaty removed them to the treeless prairies farther west. Here the Ponca, uncertain of their future, lost hope and made little attempt to establish themselves. In 1865 the Government, to reward "their constant fidelity," allowed them to return to their former homes and the graves of their ancestors on the lower Niobrara. Settled again, they once more took up husbandry and prospered.

But the Ponca were not to remain long in undisputed possession here. The whites were clamoring again for the Indian lands, and in 1876 an act of Congress provided for the Ponca's removal to Indian Territory "with their consent." Eight years previous to this the entire Ponca reserve, by the terms of the treaty of Fort Laramie (1868), was turned over to the Sioux—a blunder never explained—which increased the depredations and the hostility of the Sioux. Despite their precarious condition, only a few Ponca could be persuaded to leave the Niobrara, and in 1877 another act forced their unwilling removal. Out of 700 Ponca who left the Nebraska reservation, 158 died in Oklahoma within two years, a calamity attributed to bad climate and nostalgia.

In 1903 there were 236 Ponca in Nebraska and 556 in Oklahoma. At



WINNEBAGO INDIAN WOMEN

present about 300 Ponca live in the State, enjoying full American citizenship and holding their lands in severalty. They have adopted the dress and the manners of the white man, and are among the most enterprising and successful farmers of the Niobrara country.

The Winnebago Like the Santee Sioux, the Winnebago, one of the eleven divisions of the great Siouan family, came to Nebraska by adoption after the Territory was organized. Their language is closely related to the Missouri, Oto, and Iowan tongues. In 1670 the Winnebago were driven from their original home in the Wisconsin woods near Green Bay and almost exterminated by the Illinois Indians, but later they were permitted to return. Their history is darkened by war, alcohol, and disease. Oddly enough, it was not their aggression toward enemies but their loyalty to friends that brought disaster. They aided the French against the British in pre-Colonial days and their cause was lost. Later they were the allies of the British against the Americans and again went down to defeat. In the Black Hawk War of 1832 they had the misfortune to be neighbors of the Sac and the Fox. This compelled their removal from Wisconsin to Cedar Creek in northern Iowa, and the change from the sheltering woods to the wind-swept prairies of Iowa caused much suffering. In 1846 they were

again removed, this time to the scarcely more suitable Prairie Reservation near Crow Wing, Minnesota. Soon after this they were taken to Blue Earth, Minnesota.

After the Sioux uprising in Minnesota in 1862, the settlers demanded the expulsion of the Indians. The Winnebago had not joined the hostile bands, but they, too, were forced to move. They were hurried from their homes, crowded on boats, and finally driven to the Crow Creek Reservation near Pierre, South Dakota. Here they again found themselves close neighbors of their ancient foe, the Sioux, who were more unfriendly than before.

The Winnebago, terror-stricken, abandoned their reserve in the severe winter of 1863-64. Through the driving snows of the frozen plains, destitute and sick, they at last found their way to the lodges of the Omaha in Thurston County. Of the 2,000 who had left the Dakota reservation, only about 1,200 survived the journey. The Omaha, true to their traditional hospitality, opened their doors to the Winnebago, gave them food and shelter, bound up their wounds. By a treaty of 1865 the leading men of the Omaha sold a strip of their reservation to the Government, which in turn deeded it to the Winnebago as a permanent home. In 1874 an additional tract was turned over to them.

Thus the Winnebago, after a series of disastrous removals, came to rest in Nebraska, the last Indians to enter the State. Their reservation in Thurston County extends along the Missouri River.

Other Tribes. Of the remaining tribes the Kansa, or Kaw, once claimed land in eastern Nebraska, but part of it was ceded to the United States as early as 1825, and consequently, this tribe does not have any significant part in the Indian history of the State. The Sauk and Fox, the Iowa, the Santee Sioux, along with the Winnebago, were all brought into Nebraska in comparatively recent times. Of these the Sauk, the Fox, and the Iowa came in the late 1830's. In 1842 the Iowa numbered 479, the Sauk and the Fox 414; in 1910 the two groups numbered respectively 273 and 87. Their common reservation comprised a narrow strip of land in the southeast corner of the State, extending into Kansas. All of it was allotted in severalty. The Santee Sioux, because of their connection with the Minnesota uprising of 1862, were removed from that State to Crow Creek, South Dakota, in 1863. Three years later they moved again, to a smaller reservation in northern Knox County. When they came to Nebraska they numbered 1,350; in 1910 there were 1,155. During the last 25 years the Santee have slightly increased in numbers.

The Wild Tribes. The Indians west of the traditional Pawnee country in what is now Nebraska were not native tribes. They had no permanent villages, and they did not cultivate the soil. Theirs was more strictly a Plains culture, characterized by the horse and the tepee. Bitterly opposed to the encroachments of the white settlers and accomplished in fighting rather than in the domestic arts, these Indians played a spectacular role in the conquest of the West, one that tends to obscure the more substantial and advanced pursuits of the sedentary tribes. The wild Indians, so called to distinguish them from the natives who lived in villages, claimed a large portion of present Nebraska as their hunting grounds; and their bands, bent on hunting or fighting, ranged freely over the western part of the State.

The Cheyenne and the Arapaho, allies of the Ogalalla Sioux, appear to have maintained their habitat between the forks of the Platte River in 1804. Later, Maj. Stephen H. Long reported them on the Platte, and in 1843 Frémont recorded that they were as far east as the site of Grand Island. It is probable that these tribes, both of Algonkian stock, originally followed the buffalo and drifted down from the northeast to the Platte Valley. The date of their coming is not known. Along with the Comanche and the Kiowa, they roamed over the country to the north, southwest, and west. Restless and active, the Cheyenne and the Arapaho were perhaps the bravest and hardiest fighters to contest the supremacy of the white pioneers in western Nebraska.

The Sioux, represented in Nebraska by the Ogalalla and the Brule, originally moved out upon the Plains from the east and northeast, driving before them first the Crow and then the Pawnee, Mandan, and Arikara. For a hundred years they were disposed to be friendly and hospitable to the whites. But relations between the two races were clouded in the years following 1834 when pioneers on the Oregon Trail trespassed on the hunting grounds of the Sioux; severely strained in 1846-50 when the California gold rushes brought wanton disregard of rights guaranteed by the Government; and broken in 1854 when the Sioux, encamped along the North Platte, eight miles below Fort Laramie, killed a lame cow that had lagged behind a Mormon emigrant train and, being pursued, ran into the Indian camp. The Indians, hungry, waiting for payment and provisions long overdue, shot the cow for food. The Mormons reported their loss at the fort. To punish the Indians, the commandant, Lieut. John Grattan turned his cannon on their encampment and fired two shots, killing Conquering Bear, head chief of the Sioux Tribe. Grattan and his command

were instantly killed, and the Sioux, smarting under their injuries, plundered a trading post in the vicinity and later killed a mail carrier. These actions were avenged by William Selby Harney, later major general who surprised a camp of Brule Sioux under Little Thunder on Blue Water Creek in September 1855. Eighty-six Indians were killed, and numerous women and children were captured.

The Mormon cow episode started hostilities which did not cease for some 40 years. In 1871 the old Red Cloud Agency was established near Henry on the north side of the Platte in Scotts Bluff County, and removed two years later to Fort Robinson in the upper valley of the White River. The Spotted Tail Agency was set up some 40 miles east of it in Beaver Valley. In this White River region the final events of the Sioux war of 1876-77 took place, and here Crazy Horse and his war-weary followers came to surrender in April 1877.

In February 1861 the Arapaho and the Cheyenne ceded their Nebraska lands to the United States. On August 31, 1876, the Sioux did likewise, and the next year the bands of Red Cloud and Spotted Tail moved north-eastward in two great columns to establish their permanent homes on the reservations of South Dakota.

Indians of today. Seven different tribes of Indians—Pawnee, Omaha, Oto, Ponca, Sioux, Cheyenne, and Arapaho—numbering about 40,000 people and speaking three distinct languages, once lived in what is now Nebraska. In 1913 only 3,784, including non-indigenous tribes, remained; other survivors had been removed to reservations in surrounding States. At present there are approximately 4,000 Indians in the State. Of these, 300 Ponca live on the river 10 miles west of Niobrara. East of the Ponca and also in Knox County are the Santee Sioux, numbering 1,200. About 100 Sauk and Fox are found in southeastern Nebraska, the site of their former reservation. On separate tracts in Thurston County live 1,175 Winnebago and 1,200 Omaha, the State's only reservation Indians.

Except among the Omaha and the Winnebago, little more than their coppery complexions remains to show the lineage and traditions of the Indians. Under the jurisdiction of the Santee Sub-Agency, which serves as a guardian over their holdings, both the Ponca and the Santee are, in effect, *bona-fide* citizens of the United States. Annually, in August, the Ponca commemorate the ancient hospitality of the Omaha by bearing gifts to them. The Santee still retain a tribal council. Their children, educated in the Santee Normal Training School, in mission schools, or in public schools, speak English fluently and only in some cases the Indian tongues.



OMAHA INDIANS, MACY

A striking gift of voice and a general love of music characterize many of these young people.

The Sauk and the Fox of southeastern Nebraska, also citizens, own some of the best farming land in that region. Two customs suggestive of their old ways are still observed the family reunion, prompted by a certain feeling of tribal unity; and a memorial service for deceased members of their Grand Medicine Lodge. Other religious observances are of a Christian character.

The agency in Thurston County, ancestral home of the Omaha, haven of the Winnebago since 1865, offers considerable evidence of Indian culture undisturbed by civilization. Here the Winnebago, occupying a tract of land 7 by 24 miles in extent, maintain friendly relations with the Omaha, but seldom intermarry, since the two tribes are separated in traditions, sentiment, and social relations. As early as 1887 their lands were allotted in severalty, the head of each family receiving 160 acres. At present many of these Indians rent their land to white farmers, and some land has been sold to white men. A United States superintendent at Winnebago supervises matters pertaining to Winnebago farms.

The Winnebago are intelligent and alert; they speak and write English. The men wear the clothes of the white man but occasional scalp-locks are still seen. The women generally wear modern dress, but at times use a modification of the traditional Indian garb—a shawl worn over the head, or the hair dressed in braids. Their taste for bright ribbons is noticeable. The Winnebago are gregarious but do not encourage undue curiosity.

In social organization the Winnebago have two divisions, the Upper or Air Division, and the Lower or Earth Division. The first has four subdivisions: Thunderbird, War People, Eagle, and Pigeon; the second is made up of eight: Bear, Wolf, Water Spirit, Deer, Elk, Buffalo, Fish, and Snake. A member of either group must always marry a member of the opposite group.

Winnebago religion is a mingling of aboriginal forest customs with Christianity. The Sun and Thunder are among the heavenly powers, presided over by Manito, the Spirit of the World, with whom personal relations may be established by fasting and prayer. Since 1900 a new cult has appeared among the Winnebago "Peyote" or "Mescal." The name is derived from the button of the mescal cactus which is eaten by members of this sect. It is estimated that one third of the tribe adheres to the Peyote religion, one third to Christianity, and one third to the Medicine Lodge or the old pagan worship.

Ceremonial dances take place annually at Winnebago. Here for two days in August the Indians celebrate old times, hold councils, revive ancient songs and legends. Two important tribal ceremonies, the Medicine Dance and the Winter Feast, are still performed. The first of these (Mankani) is observed by a secret society of men and women, the second (Wagigo) is a feast designed to make the men strong in war.

Schools for the Winnebago children are maintained by various religious denominations. Here, in addition to the required fundamentals, they learn blanket-weaving, basketry, and beadwork. Characteristic artistry is shown in these handicrafts and in the making of bracelets and rings, buckskin dresses and moccasins, bows and arrows, headdresses, and rugs.

The Omaha reservation, also in Thurston County, is about 80 miles northwest of the city of Omaha, 25 miles south of Sioux City, Iowa. Macy, the site of the original Omaha Agency, is the center of community life (*see Tour 1*). The Omaha children, like those of the Winnebago, are wards of the Government and receive training in the public schools. Traditional Indian dress is seldom worn in the Omaha reservation, although beaded moccasins, bright shawls, and braided hair are not uncommon among the older women.

Most of the Omaha are Christians. They attend church at the Pentecost or the Blackbird (Dutch Reform) Church in Macy, one of the oldest places of worship in Nebraska. Memory of the dead is kept alive by feasts, prayers, and holy songs. Perhaps the most interesting cultural survival among the Omaha is the annual Pow-Wow Council, which they hold in August in a grove of oak trees just outside the village of Macy. Here a hundred tents are set up around a permanent bark council-lodge, some forty feet in diameter. Symbolic dances are performed to the beating of drums. Traditions, myths, and songs are part of the ceremonies. Much of the color and action of old Indian life is revived for a few days, and then the Omaha settle back into their usual lives as farmers, churchgoers, and laborers.



History

Period of Exploration

IN THE early decades of the sixteenth century, long before Virginia's Jamestown was founded or the Pilgrims reached Plymouth Rock, Spanish conquistadors of New Galicia (Mexico) were moved by a missionary zeal almost as strong as their greed for gold. The plains of the Middle West were soon to bear the hoofprints of the first white man's cavalcade, a company of Spanish horsemen under the gentleman adventurer, Coronado. These were, in all probability, the first Europeans to set foot in what is now Kansas and Nebraska.

In 1541 Coronado with 30 soldiers, seeking Quivira, moved northeastward from the Arkansas River under the guidance of Ysopete, an Indian. The party marched for 40 days and came upon an Indian village somewhere near the present Kansas-Nebraska line. Here the adventurers heard of a large watercourse farther to the north—presumably, the Platte. From this point the white men moved eastward, possibly reaching the Missouri River. Though Coronado claimed to have discovered Quivira, it is not known precisely where he found it; the Republican River Valley in Nebraska has been named as the most likely place.

Despite the disillusionments that Coronado reported, stories of the wealth of Quivira persisted throughout the century. There were, however, no further expeditions until 1598, when Don Juan de Onate was given an award to colonize New Mexico. In the next year, he began to explore the region northward and in 1601 visited the Quiviras, "whose grass huts identify them with the later known Wichitas." He did not find the treasure he sought.

About sixty years later, in 1662, another Governor of New Mexico, Don Diego de Penalosa, established contact with the Quiviras. He is supposed to have held council with 70 chiefs from the "city of Quivira," but recent research indicates that his story is not substantiated by other records.

The French were the first to enter the fur trade in the Northwest and

began trading in Wisconsin, the center of the fur trade, as early as 1634. They did little actual exploring until 1673 when Louis Joliet, accompanied by Father Jacques Marquette, led an expedition from Lake Michigan up the Fox River, crossing to the Wisconsin, and descending that river and the Mississippi to 34° N. latitude.

Marquette, in his narrative of the canoe trip down the Mississippi River, from the mouth of the Mesconsin (Wisconsin) to that of the Arkansea (Arkansas), mentions the Pekitanoui (Missouri) River but he did not, apparently, explore the latter. It flowed into the Mississippi, he said, "with such rapidity that we could not trust ourselves to go near it." So the mouth of the Missouri River was the nearest Marquette came to the Nebraska region; but among the existing records prepared by Joliet and Marquette, there is an accurate map of the Missouri River course. Working from their own observations and from what the Indians had told them, the explorers marked the Mississippi River, its tributaries, and even the names of the Indian tribes that lived in what is now Nebraska. On the Missouri were placed the "Pani (Pawnee), Octotatoe (Oto), and Maha (Omaha)."

France's claims to the entire territory drained by the Mississippi were established finally by the Sieur de la Salle, who in 1682 explored the basin of "the Father of Waters" and took possession of it in the name of the King of France.

Thereafter, French *voyageurs* and traders were active along the Missouri and tributary waters. The Platte region was the territory of the Pawnee Indians, and Father Hennepin placed them correctly on his map. That the French were helping them in their wars with southern tribes was apparent in 1699, when Navajo warriors appeared at a Spanish fair laden with spoils unusual in native warfare—powder-flasks, sword belts, waistcoats, shoes and other trophies of European make. The Navajos, too, "praised the French for their valor . . . and their readiness in reenforcing their allies."

The French in the next twenty years persistently reached out among the tribes of the Spanish zone. Uribarri, at El Cuartelejo (eastern Colorado) found indications of French contact in 1706; the Pawnee, aided by some French, had set out to attack the Apache at that place some time before his arrival. Uribarri was unable to find the French center, but their persistent penetration of the Spanish zone worried the government.

In 1719 Governor Valverde himself led an expedition on to the plains of Quivira, but did not go farther north than the Arkansas River. He intimated, however, that the Apache "knew of French settlements on a very

large river, called in New Mexico the Río Jesús María, two towns on its northern bank being recently established." This river was the present South Platte which, said Valverde, separated Apache lands from those of the Pawnee Indians. Du Tisé was in charge of French activities in the Missouri region in that year, and French influence was strong.

Determined to oust the French and to assert Spanish authority, a large expedition under Pedro de Villasur left Santa Fé in June or early July of 1720. Traveling always to the northeast and probably passing along Valverde's route, Villasur's party crossed the Arkansas River on rafts and pressed on. Reaching the South Platte River (the Río Jesús María) on August 6, "about eight leagues from the junction," Villasur sent out scouts who soon returned to report Indians some eight leagues away. The Spaniards now crossed the North Platte River, which Villasur called the Saint Laurent. Following its course, they encamped at the point where "the river Jesús María unites with this stream;" Villasur adds that "if we had not crossed, it would be impossible to do it." On the 10th, they came opposite the village of the Pawnee Indians; overtures made by the Spanish were not well received, and Villasur thought it safer to fall back and recross the North Platte. They were encamped on the south bank on August 13. Next day at dawn, the Indians attacked so suddenly that Villasur was killed while still unarmed. The day went to the Pawnee but they, too, had lost so many that they were unable to pursue the Spanish survivors. The site of the battle was, possibly, on the south side of the North Platte River, near the present town of North Platte; or near the present Columbus, at the junction of the Platte and Loup Rivers.

When the Villasur expedition was planned, Spain was at war with France, but before the massacre on the Platte occurred the two nations had made peace. Thereafter French penetration into the Spanish zone was viewed more quietly—as competition for trade rather than as a struggle for empire.

For some years after 1720, the Spanish sought to keep the French and their Indian allies away from New Mexico by strengthening their own relations with buffer Indian nations within the Spanish zone of influence. As the years passed, Indian aggression was more feared than French. The latter found their own task—of holding peaceful contact with the Indians along the Missouri and tributary waters—quite difficult enough. One French post was completely obliterated by the Indians in 1725. This perhaps contributed to the fact that "after 1727 the French, with the exception of one intrusion in the middle of the century, were no longer a serious threat to New Mexico."

In the Margry papers, prepared for the French Government, is the Mallet report, the one authentic account of French contact with the Missouri and Platte regions during this period. It is probable that the Mallet brothers, Paul and Pierre, came up from New Orleans in 1738 and passed the winter near the mouth of the Niobrara River, after visiting the villages of the Missouri (100 leagues up the river from present St. Louis), the Octotatoe situated at the mouth of the Platte River, and the Panimaha (Skidi Pawnee), 60 leagues farther up the Missouri.

Leaving the Panimaha villages on May 29, 1739, the Mallets moved southwestward. Four days later they came to a broad river which they named the "Platte." A 12-day trek up the banks of this stream brought the French traders to a point well above the fork of the North and South Platte. Having crossed what is now the State of Nebraska, they turned southward and reached Santa Fe on July 22.

French interests in the mid-area of the New World, protected by various trading posts from New Orleans (established in 1718) to the Great Lakes region, remained almost undisputed until the French and Indian War, when British victory resulted in a realignment of Colonial possessions in America.

For several decades after 1606 the English sovereigns made land grants to groups who would establish colonies in America. The latitudinal boundaries of the various grants were definitely specified, but the royal generosity knew no longitudinal bounds between the Atlantic and the Pacific, and Nebraska Territory lay in the claims of three Colonies: Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Virginia. The position of England in America was more clearly defined after the French and Indian War. France, defeated in 1763, gave up almost all of her claims east of the Mississippi to England, and those west of the river to Spain. Thus Nebraska again came under Spanish rule.

The treaty of Paris, which ended the American Revolution, fixed the western boundary of the United States on the Mississippi River, and made the new republic a neighbor of the Spanish-held Louisiana territory. In 1800 Napoleon demanded from Spain the retrocession of Louisiana, and the Spaniards, already losing their power, were forced to comply. By the Treaty of Madrid, March 1, 1801, the whole Louisiana country—including Nebraska—once more became French territory. This status was short-lived, however, for in 1803 Napoleon sold the territory to the United States.

In 1804 an expedition authorized by Congress at the request of President Jefferson set out to explore the new and unknown country gained by

the Louisiana Purchase. Commanded by Meriwether Lewis, with William Clark as his lieutenant, this expedition was instructed to go up the Missouri River as far as possible, cross the Rocky Mountains, and then proceed to the Pacific Ocean, preparing maps and reports and establishing friendly relations with the Indian tribes along the line of march.

In the spring of 1804 Lewis and Clark entered the Louisiana country; in their company of 47 men were four interpreters, including Clark's Negro slave, York.

About a month and a half later they camped near the mouth of the Big Nemaha River, in present Richardson County. Here they saw elk, Indians, wild fruit, and "the river that was bordered by high bluffs." Passing the Little Nemaha River on July 15 and the mouth of the Weeping Water five days later, the party reached the Platte on the 21st and camped a short distance above its confluence with the Missouri. About 30 miles above the Platte, a council was held on August 3 at which Lewis and Clark spoke to 14 Oto and Missouri Indians, telling them of the change in the government and of the desire of the Great Father at Washington to be friendly with them. This meeting took place on a high bluff, later known as Council Bluff, situated near the present town of Fort Calhoun (*see Tour 1*). Continuing up the river Lewis and Clark reached Blackbird Hill (*see Tour 1*) on August 11. Here they found the burial place of Blackbird, fierce chief of the Omaha, who had died of the smallpox four years before with 400 of his men. By August 20 the party had reached a point on the Missouri near the present site of Sioux City, Iowa.

On September 7 the expedition pitched its last camp on Nebraska soil at a point six miles from the present north State line; the trip thus far had occupied 116 days. Ultimately, the party crossed the Rocky Mountains and descended the Columbia River to the Pacific. The return trip began on March 23, 1806, and this time the explorers spent 12 uneventful days in the Nebraska area, reaching St. Louis on September 23, 1806.

In July of 1806 Lieut. Zebulon M. Pike was commissioned by President Jefferson to establish cordial relations with the Indians, to explore the Plains, and to gather information about the Spanish. Pike and his company moved up the Osage River and traveled across country to the Pawnee village on the Republican River. On September 29 Pike held a great council with the Pawnee, persuading them to shift their allegiance from Spain to the United States.

The explorers of the prairies were agreed that this country offered rare opportunities to hunters and traders for deer, elk, antelope, beaver, mink, and otter were plentiful. There had been some fur trade since the first

settlers came to the New World, but very few trappers had ventured beyond the Mississippi. In 1802 Cruzatte's post was located two miles above Council Bluff and in 1807 various companies sent their agents into this area to exploit the fur trade. One of these, Spanish-born Manuel Lisa, the "founder of old Nebraska," moved up the Missouri and the Yellowstone as far as the Big Horn, where he established a trading post. Thereafter he made annual trips up the watercourse from St. Louis. Fort Lisa, the base of the Missouri Fur Company, was founded in 1812 on the Missouri River ten miles above the site of Omaha (*see Tour 1*).

According to tradition, the site of Bellevue—the first permanent settlement on Nebraska soil, was discovered and named by Manuel Lisa about 1807 when he made his way up the river to a point beyond the present town. As a matter of fact, however, there is no mention of Bellevue in the fur-trading records until after 1823, when the settlement had a trading post and the Council Bluff Indian Agency (*see Tour 1A*). Bellevue was not the only settlement to get its start as a trading post, for similar posts were established at Cabanne's post, nine miles above Omaha, about 1825; and at Table Creek, now part of Nebraska City, about 1846. Traders and trappers were also active in the western part of present Nebraska although no permanent or prominent posts were established.

In 1810 Wilson Price Hunt, a partner in the newly formed Pacific Fur Company, led an expedition overland in order to find places where trading posts might be established. The party, outfitting at Montreal, came via Lake Michigan and the Fox, Wisconsin, and Mississippi Rivers to St. Louis. To avoid the expense of wintering there it moved 450 miles up the Missouri and spent the winter of 1810-11 at the mouth of the Nadowa River, near the present St. Joseph, Missouri. In January, Hunt went to St. Louis for more hunters and an interpreter and embarked again from St. Louis on March 12, 1811, with a party of recruits. On April 21, 1811, the winter quarters at Nadowa were abandoned and the entire party started the long journey to the Pacific. Near Omaha, they waited for an official in the party to finish his business with the Oto and Omaha Indians. The party then went up the Missouri to the Arikara village near present Pierre, where they obtained horses for a trip by land to the Columbia River. Hunt and his men were joined on June 2, 1811 by Manuel Lisa and his party; later they went their different ways and Hunt's party finally reached the mouth of the Columbia River, where they arrived at Fort Astoria.

On June 29, 1812, a party of seven men led by Robert Stuart started back overland from Astoria bearing dispatches to John Jacob Astor of New York. After suffering many hardships they reached a point in

present Wyoming, and there made themselves secure for the winter. With the first spring thaw the party launched two canoes and attempted to float down the North Platte River. Forced to abandon their boats because of the shallow water, the seven men packed their equipment on an old horse previously obtained from the Snake Indians, and set out on foot down the North Platte Valley. In the early part of April they reached the first recognized landmark—an island 70 miles long in the Platte River, now Grand Island. Three days later an Oto Indian met them and took them to his village, where they encountered two white traders from St. Louis. After trading their horse for a canoe, Stuart and his men again took to the river. On April 18 they reached the Missouri, moving from there to St. Louis, and then on to the company headquarters in the East. The Stuart party made valuable discoveries about the topography of Nebraska, particularly in the North Platte Valley.

In 1819, the Yellowstone expedition, sent by the government to establish a strong post at the mouth of the Yellowstone River and to make scientific inquiry into the natural features of the country, had its base at Engineers' Cantonment, six miles below Council Bluff. From here, under the leadership of Maj. Stephen H. Long, it explored the South Platte Valley to the river's source. The last camp in present Nebraska was made on June 26, near the boundary between Deuel and Keith Counties.

Long believed that the land lying between the Missouri and the mountains would be difficult to settle because of its scarcity of timber and water; he reported: "It is a region destined by the barrenness of its soil, the inhospitable character of its climate, and by other physical disadvantages, to be the abode of perpetual desolation"

The expedition of Major Long placed the Great American Desert—a region extending from the Platte Valley to the Red River in Texas—on the map. For the next 50 years Long's pronouncement that the Platte Valley was "almost wholly unfit for cultivation" was generally accepted.

The way taken by Stuart's Astorian party became, with few variations, the route of the Oregon Trail; it led across the Rockies near the South Pass, along the North Platte Valley, and then down to Missouri. The first wheeled conveyance to follow this course was a wagon taken part way up the Platte Valley by the William Ashley party of 1824. To Milton Sublette goes the credit for making the first wagon road. Moving northwest from the mouth of the Kansas River, the Sublette party came up the valley of the Little Blue and then proceeded westward along the south side of the Platte and the North Platte, finally reaching the head of Wind River in the mountains of Wyoming.



WHITE-FACE CATTLE

On the first of May, 1832, Captain Bonneville started out with a company from St. Louis. Though the expedition accomplished little, Bonneville inspected Nebraska's Chimney Rock (*see Tour 12A*), estimating that this formation of clay and sandstone could be seen at a distance of 30 miles, and (incidentally) inspired Washington Irving to write *The Adventures of Captain Bonneville*. In the same year Nathaniel J. Wyeth, eager for the furs of the distant Columbia country, drove his wagons up the Platte Valley through the South Pass and on to Oregon. At this time and again in 1834, when he repeated the trip, his wagon wheels deepened the ruts of what was soon to be known as the Oregon Trail.

The German prince, Maximilian von Wied-Neuwied, came from New York to St. Louis in the spring of 1833, accompanied by Charles Bodmer, artist, and Jager Dreidoppel, his hunter. He joined the American Fur Company and obtained passage on its steamboat, the *Yellowstone*. This craft left St. Louis on April 10, 1833, carrying the Maximilian party, several French voyagers, and servants of the fur company, about 100 persons in all. During his travels this explorer-prince touched at many points on the Nebraska side of the Missouri, among them the mouths of the Great

and the Little Nemaha Rivers, Bellevue, and Cabanne's trading post. His line of travel, however, is less important than what he had to say about the new country in his writings, published in 1838 at Coblenz, Germany. In one of his volumes, an art portfolio, appeared pictures and drawings of Indians, tools, pipes, cabins—in fact, anything he happened to see. On this trip Maximilian completed and corrected the map of the upper Missouri prepared by William Clark. Unfortunately, a great deal of the scientific data gathered by Maximilian's party was lost when the American Fur Company's steamer *Assiniboin* burned near the present site of Bismarck, North Dakota, on June 1, 1835.

Father Pierre Jean de Smet was the first Catholic missionary to the Indians of the Platte region and the upper Missouri area. He came up from St. Louis in 1836 to what is now Council Bluffs, Iowa, to minister to the Pottawattomie. For the next 30 years he was one of the most active missionaries in America. In the course of exploring the plains and mountains and founding missions, Father de Smet crossed Nebraska four times over the Oregon Trail and skirted the Missouri waterfront no less than seventeen times.

The last of the great explorers before Nebraska became a Territory was the "Pathfinder," John C. Frémont. The first expedition led by Frémont, with Carson as his guide, was out three and one-half months and surpassed its intentions. These men were sent to explore the country between the Missouri and the Rockies and between the Kansas and the Platte Rivers, and prepare maps and reports of the entire area.

Frémont followed the Oregon Trail through Nebraska to the Forks of the Platte, where his party split into two companies, each taking a fork of the river, and both meeting again at Fort Laramie to go on to the South Pass. Evidence of their presence is still visible on the rocky bank of Wyeth Creek (now called Rock Creek) near Fairbury, where they carved the names John C. Frémont and Christopher Carson and the date 1842 (*see Tour 11*).

On the return trip Frémont's party attempted to navigate the upper Platte, but their boats were wrecked in the Platte Canyon near the site of Casper, Wyoming, leaving the men to proceed on foot with what luggage they had saved. Tramping down the Platte Valley, they reached the trading post of Peter A. Sarpy at Bellevue on October 1, 1842.

Before there could be any extensive movement of settlers to the Nebraska Territory and points west, roads permitting the passage of wagon caravans had to be opened. In 1830 both the East and the West were awaiting the work of the pathfinders: the East wished to tap the rich

trade possibilities of the Northwest, and the West was interested in making mineral and agricultural resources known to possible settlers. Two famous overland trails—the Oregon and the Mormon—converged in the present State of Nebraska, followed the Platte Valley and separated at its western border (*see Tour 8*). These trails aided settlement and doubtless hastened territorial organization.

Territorial Organization

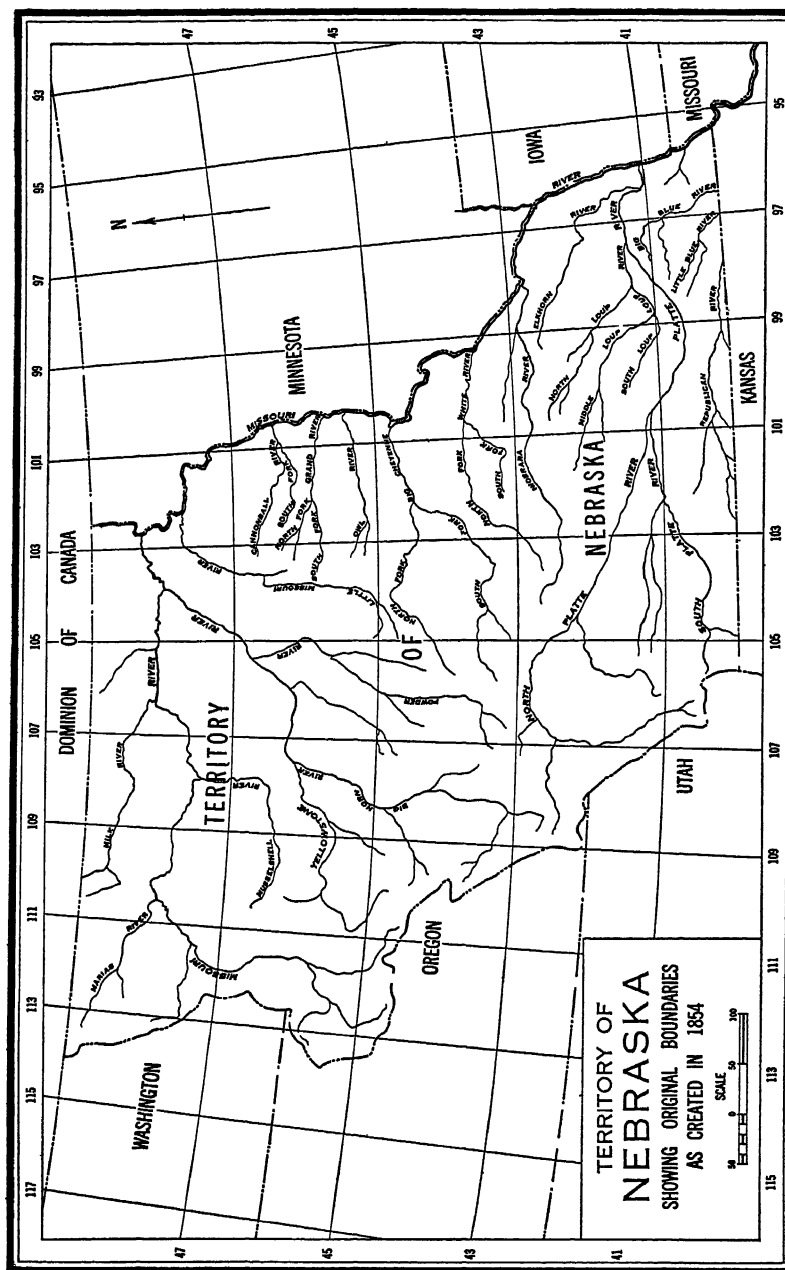
On December 17, 1844, Congress first considered a bill to create a new political unit west of the Missouri, to be known as the Territory of Nebraska. Difficulties arose over the question of slavery and the movement did not succeed. On May 30, 1854, after five months of debate, Congress passed the bill first proposed by Stephen A. Douglas. It created two Territories: Kansas, up to the 40th parallel, and Nebraska, between 40° and 49° N. up to the Canadian border; they extended from the Missouri River on the east to the Rocky Mountain divide on the west. The bill was immediately signed by President Pierce.

It is significant that with the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act the Republican Party was born. The slavery issue was historically important in Nebraska, for with the North and South dividing on the question there was a call to organize the Republican Party which advocated "no more slave territory anywhere." On January 18, 1858, a State organization meeting for that purpose was held in Omaha.

Most of the people in Nebraska were opposed to slavery, but settlers coming here from the South brought slaves whom they found difficult to hold. A branch of the Underground Railroad running from Missouri through the corner of Nebraska by way of Falls City, Little Nemaha, Camp Creek, and Nebraska City was a means of escape. It is said that John Brown often came through this corner of Nebraska with runaway slaves.

For first Governor of the new Nebraska Territory, President Pierce appointed Francis Burt of South Carolina. Burt's administration was cut short by his death on October 18, 1854; and Secretary of State Thomas B. Cuming automatically became Acting Governor. Cuming immediately organized a government, took a census (revealing 2,732 people in the Territory), and held an election for a legislature.

This first Territorial legislature, composed of 26 representatives and a council of 13, convened on January 16, 1855, at Omaha City—a little town "in the woods fronting the Missouri." In the course of successive



Territorial legislatures, many attempts were made to remove the seat of government to Bellevue, to Nebraska City, to Florence, and to paper towns like "Douglas" and "Neapolis." From the first, the legislative sessions were the scene of intense activity between the warring factions of the north and the south Platte regions. The "Platters" of the southern counties greatly outnumbered their opponents and at one time threatened to secede and join Kansas; but they could effect no change of site for the capital during the life of the Territory.

The first legislature borrowed from the Iowa statutes-at-large a body of laws for governing the Territory; defined the eastern counties between the Niobrara River and Kansas, leaving the rest of the region an unorganized wilderness; set up laws governing roads and ferries; passed an ordinance prohibiting the selling or giving away of liquor; and approved a measure providing for free common schools. By appointment from Washington in February 1855, Mark W. Izard of Arkansas became the second Governor of the Territory, and Cuming again became the Secretary of State.

In 1856 the second legislature met and gave its approval to liberal banking regulations which at first brought an unnatural, ephemeral prosperity based on wildcat currency, and later led to the financial panic of 1857. Throughout the West, banks closed their doors and settlers found themselves holding worthless paper in place of money. Not for many years did they forget the poverty, distress, and pain that characterized the "wild-cat days" of 1857.

The capitol at Omaha City was completed in January 1858. Dissatisfaction over the capital site continued, however, during the administration of the Territorial Governors who followed Izard—William Richardson, Samuel Black, and Alvin Saunders. Other problems that created division were the slavery question, the repeal of prohibition, and the First Territorial Fair, held at Nebraska City in September 1859. In 1860 Nebraska voted against becoming a State.

The Territory of Nebraska gradually lost its outlying areas: Colorado and Dakota in 1861; Idaho (including present Montana and Wyoming) in 1863. In 1864 Nebraska had been reduced almost to its present size and shape. It was in this year that Congress approved an act permitting Nebraska to become a State whenever her people were ready.

In February 1866, the legislature met to frame a State constitution, which was ratified by the people on June 21. This document restricted the franchise to white men and consequently failed to meet the approval of Congress. But after a special session of the Territory's legislature declared in effect that "white in their constitution meant any color whatsoever,"

Congress passed the bill to admit Nebraska as a State over President Andrew Johnson's veto. The legislature of Nebraska met on February 20, 1867, and framed an acceptance; President Johnson, by proclamation on March 1, 1867, recognized the existence of the free State of Nebraska, 37th in the Union.

The legislators of the State immediately returned to their quarrel over the location of the State capital. This time a special commission headed by David Butler, the first State Governor of Nebraska, selected a site on the open prairie, between Salt and Antelope Creeks. The site, originally a small village named Lancaster, was officially named Lincoln.

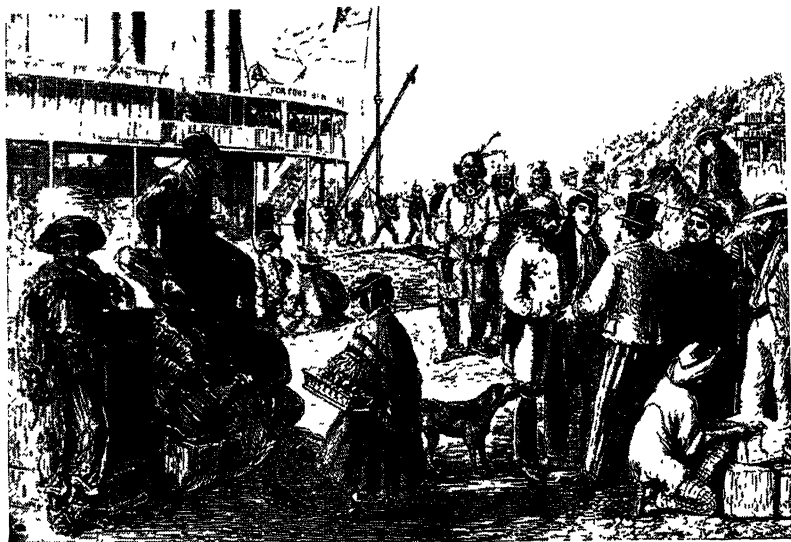
Settlement

Fort Atkinson on the Missouri, 16 miles above the present city of Omaha, was the first military stronghold and the first town in Nebraska Territory. Shortly after its founding in 1819, this fort had a population of 1,000 persons, among them soldiers, laborers, hunters, teamsters, and Indians. The community had its own sawmill, gristmill, brickyard, and stone quarry; hundreds of acres of land adjoining the town were farmed. The first school and library were here. The fort was in existence only until 1827.

There is no record of permanent settlers along the southeastern river front of the State until about the time the Territory of Nebraska was organized. Stephen Story, said to have been the first white settler of Southeastern Nebraska, lived in present Richardson County in 1844. He rested his claims upon squatter sovereignty, and others probably did the same. A number of small towns scattered between old Fort Atkinson and the State's southeastern extremity served as points of departure for the pioneer vanguard. The most important of these were Omaha City and Brownville.

With the passage of the Nebraska-Kansas Bill and the creation of the Territory of Nebraska in 1854, the Union became more or less conscious of the Middle West, its nature and advantages. Settlers moved in from the East; others came up from the South on steamboats of the Missouri. The newcomers usually secured provisions at Omaha or Nebraska City before setting out for the unknown region in which some found homes and fortunes, while others found only grasshoppers, drought, disappointment, and ruin. These pioneers, like their predecessors, favored river valleys for their land claims.

The squatters of the late fifties confined their holdings largely to the eastern part of the State, from Dakota City (platted in 1858) south to



STEAMBOAT ARRIVAL, OMAHA CITY (1868)

the present Kansas-Nebraska State Line. North of the Platte they were distributed along the Elkhorn River from Fremont to Philadelphia (now West Point); south of the Platte the Nemaha Valley attracted many. Both of these areas offered singular advantages. In addition to flowing water and fertile soil there were extensive growths of timber—elm, cottonwood, ash, box elder, soft maple, oak, walnut, hickory and willow trees—which were used by the settlers for the one-room log cabins and dugouts typical of early days in the river areas. At this time, too, the Mormons established encampments in the north on the Niobrara and at Genoa in the Loup Valley, where ridges marking the substructure of their homes still remain. More significant was the settlement of the Salt Basin, some 60 miles southwest of Omaha City in what is now Lancaster County

Before 1859 land-claimants, who moved in advance of public surveyors and ignored the statutes-at-large, had no valid title to the acres they took; they were simply squatters. But their claims generally were respected, especially when valuable improvements had been made. At that time, under the laws of the United States, a settler could take only 160 acres of surveyed land to which the Indian title had been extinguished. These early settlers made their own friendly arrangements with the Indians, did their own surveying, and staked out 320 acres. Security for the squatters was

furnished by "claim clubs" which defined and protected their holdings. Anticipating the regular land offices, these organizations tended to favor the original settlers at the expense of later claim jumpers.

After 10 years of agitation for free land in the western frontier country, the first of a series of homestead laws was passed in 1862. It ultimately brought more than 100,000 homesteaders into what is the present State of Nebraska. The Homestead Act of May 20 provided for "distribution of public lands without compensation to homemakers who for five years resided upon, cultivated, and improved such lands."

The homestead measure of 1862 did not, of course, immediately clear the way for the systematic settlement of the Nebraska area, although it was the official signal for the rush. On January 1, 1863, Daniel Freeman, whose homestead was the first one granted under the new law, took steps to secure a tract of land on Cub Creek in Gage County (*see Tour 11*). Although some homesteads were taken north of the Platte in these early years, the region was mainly unsettled until the demobilization of thousands of soldiers at the end of the Civil War in 1865, the creation of the State of Nebraska in 1867, and the completion of the Union Pacific Railroad through the State in the same year, gave impetus to westward migration. Treaties were made with the Indians by the Federal Government canceling their claim to lands, and opening it to white settlement. The Sioux and Cheyenne tribes, however, resisted the advance of the whites.

The Federal Government took recognition of the Indian troubles in Nebraska by establishing various military posts at strategic points. These fortifications were built to check intertribal warfare, to protect the great communication lines through Nebraska, and to discourage Indian depredations and attacks upon the white settlers.

Of the forts instrumental in the building and settling of Nebraska, the following were important: Fort Atkinson, established in 1819 and abandoned in 1827; old Fort Kearney (now Nebraska City) on the Missouri 50 miles south of Omaha, established 1847 and abandoned 1848; new Fort Kearney on the south side of the Platte opposite the upper end of Grand Island, established as Fort Childs 1848 and abandoned 1871; Fort Grattan at the mouth of Ash Hollow south of the North Platte, Garden County, established September 1855 and abandoned October 1855; Fort McPherson on the south side of the Platte, southeast of North Platte, established as cantonment Fort McKeen, the cemetery of which remains under national supervision; Fort Sidney, adjoining the town of Sidney, established 1867 and abandoned 1874; Fort Omaha on the Missouri above Omaha, established 1868; Fort Hartsuff on the north side of the Loup

River, 76 miles from Grand Island, established 1874 and abandoned 1881; Fort Robinson on the White River near the present town of Crawford, established 1874, still maintained for cavalry purposes; Fort Niobrara on the south bank of the Niobrara, established 1880, now part of a wildlife reserve.

These posts were almost all situated in river valleys, principally the Platte Basin, the areas of first settlement, but only a few were located to aid settlement. Thus, Forts Kearney, McPherson, Grattan, Sidney, and Mitchell were established to protect overland communication. The purpose of others was to serve as operation centers for military regulation and campaigns against the Indians. Fort Hartsuff and Fort Niobrara were established to protect settlement. The pioneers more often than not pushed out ahead of the forts and staked their claims where the land was most promising, regardless of Indians and soldiers.

Before 1867 the Sioux Indians claimed all the country north of the Platte as their hunting grounds. But a dispute concerning the Black Hills road to the gold country led to fighting; at the end of this war, in 1877, the Sioux relinquished their land in western Nebraska and removed to South Dakota. In 1875-77 the Pawnee, who ranged through the valleys of the Platte, the Loup, and the Republican Rivers, were removed to Oklahoma, as were the Ponca, who claimed the Niobrara country, and finally the Oto in 1881. When the Indians had been disposed of, most of northern Nebraska was thrown open to settlement.

Indian wars in the northwestern section of Nebraska, known as the Panhandle, continued long after the eastern half of the State was well on the road to complete settlement. It took 36 years from the time of the first serious uprising, in 1854, to bring the Indians under white control. Consequently, there were very few white settlers in the Panhandle until the surrender of Crazy Horse, Sioux war chief, in 1877. But while the West was the scene of the last great fights between the Indians and the white men, settlers were steadily pushing forward into the well-watered counties south of the Platte River, into the Loup Valleys of central Nebraska, and far along the Platte itself.

Probably nothing in the natural history of the West has excited more interest than the grasshopper plagues in the seventies. As early as 1856 the Rocky Mountain grasshoppers, probably encouraged by continued dryness and warmth during the summer months, swarmed over present Nebraska and parts of the neighboring States. In the next 17 years there were six more invasions, less destructive to crops, but discouraging to the farmers. The locusts made their worst and most memorable attack in 1874. The

Indians prepared a mash of the grasshoppers and ate it, faring better than the settler who depended for a living upon the crops the pests overlooked. Many pioneers sold or gave away their claims and returned East; at least one drove a wagon with the sign "Eaten out by grasshoppers. Going back East to live with wife's folks." Others, determined to stick it out, took up the hunting life of the Indians, living on dried buffalo meat and trading the hides for other supplies. Still others retreated to the older communities where conditions were better and worked there as hired men.

The forerunners of the cattlemen in Nebraska were the owners of supply stations along the Oregon Trail in the Platte Valley, who kept a few head of cattle on hand to be traded for the travel-worn stock of the passing emigrants. Sizable herds developed, but they never reached the proportion of the immense droves that came north from Texas in the years following the Civil War.

One Captain Streeter is said to have wintered 821 head of cattle on Ash Creek (south of the site of Broken Bow) during the season of 1869-70 with a loss of only two animals. This demonstrated what was already more or less obvious; that buffalo grass, blue joint, and sorghum grass, which had long nourished bison, elk, and antelope, would also sustain horses, cattle, and sheep. Furthermore, watercourses were plentiful, and the terrain often provided natural shelter for livestock in the form of ravines, draws, washouts, canyons, and bluffs. With wild forage grasses, shelter, and water ready at hand, the cattlemen lacked only favorable transportation facilities to cover the State with their herds.

These were provided by the completion (1867) of the transcontinental railway through Nebraska: the stocking of the plains along the line of the Union Pacific may be traced by the location of the chief shipping points of that road. In 1870 the first herds were loaded at Schuyler (terminal of the Chisholm Trail), 60 miles west of Omaha, where 35,000 cattle were sold. Later Kearney, North Platte, and Ogalalla (terminal of the Texas Trail), farther up the Platte Valley, became the leading shipping points.

Many conditions favored the first ventures in ranching. In valleys and lagoons there were bluestem, rye, and gramma grasses for spring and summer grazing, and buffalo grass in the uplands for winter pasture. The ranchers themselves seized upon the good herding grounds and built their ranches on every available watercourse, to the exclusion of actual settlers. The cattleman-homesteader feuds of the late seventies in west-central Nebraska were marked by wire-cutting, killing, rustling, and general lawlessness. But in spite of this, the plowmen moved steadily westward. By the



OX TEAM, 1887

1880's Custer County, long considered a natural grazing country, had been settled, and the large cattle interests were being slowly restricted to the Panhandle in the northwest and to Cherry County just east of it.

In the winter of 1880-81, a severe blizzard was followed by sleet, then snow, and more sleet; the surface of the snow was covered by ice which crashed beneath the feet of the cattle, cutting their legs, until they dropped from weakness and starved. Cold weather continued until March. From 50 to 75 percent of some herds perished; and men, wealthy at the beginning of the winter, found themselves bankrupt by spring. Many cattlemen quit the business and left the country in disgust.

A variety of favorable conditions aided the settlers in western Nebraska between 1880 and 1890. It was a free-land period. By preempting, a settler could claim 160 acres of ground, live on it for six months, and then buy it from the Government for \$1.25 an acre. The homestead law of 1862 was still in effect. Another measure, the Timber-Claim Act, was passed in 1873. Under its provisions a settler might obtain title to a 160-acre tract by planting trees on ten acres and tending the trees for eight years. By taking advantage of these laws a man could acquire 480 acres of land in a short time. Also, various railroads were pushing their lines through the

western half of the State. While the Burlington was laying its rails up the Republican Valley and across the plains to Denver, the Fremont, Elkhorn, and Missouri Valley (now the North Western) began its long road up the Elkhorn, then across northern Nebraska and on to the Black Hills. The Missouri Pacific, coming into the State from the southeast, and the Rock Island, pushing its line across Nebraska to the Rocky Mountains, added their share to the increasing railway mileage. And the rainy summers that came later heartened the grangers by demonstrating that the soil of western Nebraska could grow excellent crops.

In 1885 and 1886, dirt farmers moved up the Platte Valley toward the cattle country, where they divided the land, located their claims, and stocked them with horses and cattle. The ranchmen who were already settled regarded these grangers as aliens and poachers. Numerous fights broke out between the two classes. The cowmen, outnumbered by the farmers 100 to 1 in 1885, tried desperately to preserve their ranges by fencing in large tracts of land, digging wells, and having their cowboys make homestead, preemption, and tree claims. The farmers countered by making entries within the grounds claimed by cattlemen. In the courts the cattle interests found little satisfaction: the juries were made up of farmers.

Passage of the so-called Kinkaid Law in 1904 promoted the speedy settlement of the rest of the cattle country, particularly the sandhills. This act provided that any settler in the new region might homestead as many as four quarter-sections (640 acres) instead of 160 acres as before. In an area of poor soils and limited rainfall, adapted only to stock raising, large land units were a prime factor in prosperity for the settlers, since from 15 to 20 acres were required to pasture one cow. The Kinkaid Act ended access to free ranges and thus broke down the last stronghold of the old-time cattlemen in this State. The cattle, however, remained—not the rangy Texas longhorns and the immense wild herds that figured in the early roundups, but the more substantial beef and dairy types and smaller droves unaccustomed to the open prairie and more closely herded. Beef production in this section did not cease, or even materially diminish, with the passing of the open range cattle days.

The disappearance of the open ranges was the final step in the settlement of Nebraska. The Indians, pioneers, and cowboys were succeeded by the dirt farmers and the latter-day cattle raisers. Railroad branch lines were laid where bridle paths had been; log cabins and sod houses gave way to neat frame dwellings. Slow ox teams were replaced by draft horses. The exploitation of agricultural resources had begun.

Statehood

Soon after the first legislators convened in their new Capitol at Lincoln, they took up the problems of a new constitution, railroad regulation, liquor control, and the construction of insane asylums, penitentiaries, and schools.

It is significant that in 1870-71, during the administration of Governor David Butler, the foremost figure in early State politics, the first State-wide herd law was passed, restraining "stock from roaming at large in the State of Nebraska." In 1871 Butler was impeached and removed from office for illegal use of public school funds. Later he made full settlement for the funds, and in 1882 was elected by his home people State senator from Pawnee County, as a sign of confidence.

A prominent contemporary of Butler was J. Sterling Morton, remembered chiefly as the founder of Arbor Day, proposed by him and instituted by resolution of the State Board of Agriculture on January 4, 1872.

The salt deposits in present Lancaster County were known to the earliest settlers. This mineral was then so rare that in 1869 a legislative act authorized the exploitation of Nebraska salt—the State to receive a royalty of two cents for every bushel of salt refined. Anticipating great wealth from the new enterprise, business men made the extraordinary proposition that the National Capital be removed to Kearney or Lincoln, where it would also be close to the immense deposits of salt. Advocates of the change held a national convention at St. Louis in 1870; Nebraska Congressmen were instructed to vote against expenditures for material improvements at Washington in the firm belief that the Capital of the United States would be moved into the West.

Vital to Nebraska's agricultural interests was the cooperative enterprise that had its beginnings in the Grange of the seventies and the Farmers' Alliance of the eighties. Both these organizations represented cooperative efforts to improve conditions for farmers: fewer middlemen, lower railroad rates, higher prices for produce, organized buying and selling. They were the forerunners of the 525 cooperative associations that now exist: elevators, stores, oil stations, and creameries.

As far as records show, the farmers' Shipping Association of Superior, Nebraska, was the first successful cooperative organization to be set up in the State. Formed in 1882-83, it consisted of Nebraska and Kansas farmers brought together in order to pool their marketable livestock to make up carload lots.

During the nineties cooperative enterprise definitely got into its stride.

Movements of that period included the Farmers Butter and Cream Factory at Scribner (1891), the Farmers Elevator Company at Talmage (1891) and at Fairmont and Syracuse (1892); the Farmers Union Insurance Company at Grand Island (1894), the Farmers Union Ditch Company at Kearney (1896). These, together with the Farmers Cooperative Grain Association of Arapahoe (organized in 1903), were not generally conducted at the outset in conformity with the so-called Rochdale principles. According to these principles, first laid down in England in 1844 by a group of weavers at Rochdale, an individual stockholder was restricted to one vote regardless of the amount he invested, the rate of interest paid on capital was fixed, and patronage dividends were disallowed in order to eliminate speculation and to curb private profit.

Grain elevators were the first of the cooperative enterprises. During the nineties, when they were designed to compete with the 15 or 20 chain elevator systems pouring Nebraska grains on the Chicago market, farmers' elevators were not very successful, owing largely to the sharp practices of the big grain men. In the early years of the present century, however, things went better with the cooperative elevator movement. The Vincent brothers of Omaha, militant farm leaders, used their publication, *Central Farmer*, to put cooperative elevators on a sound legal and business foundation. These brothers overcame the railroads' reluctance to grant sites for independent elevators, and influenced the 1903 State legislature to enact an elevator site law granting locations for new cooperatives. In January 1903 the State Farmers' Grain Dealers Association was organized at Lincoln, and a grain market established at Omaha.

In 1911 a cooperative law was enacted in Nebraska providing for the payment of patronage dividends, the distribution of earnings (wholly or partly) on the basis of amount of business transacted by each member of a cooperative unit. Again, in 1920-21, provision was made for State-wide adoption of the "one man, one vote" rule, which was already well established by practice if not by law. Another act authorized the creation of cooperative associations with the power of using and lending money to carry on cooperative credit banking. In 1927 the legislature approved a measure providing for cooperative credit associations with broad enough charters to enable them to carry on a cooperative banking business.

The Farmers Educational and Cooperative Union, or Farmers Union, was brought into Nebraska May 29, 1911. Two years later the State organization, with 40,000 members, became a part of the national unit. Its objective was the creation of voluntary farmers' associations set up to buy

and sell commodities on the best terms, all profits to be distributed pro rata.

The Farmers Equity Union, which entered the State about 1916, is a national farmer-consumer organization. Its purpose is to unite the buying and selling power of a large number of farmers and consumers and to eliminate profits which otherwise go to middlemen. Established about the market centers of southcentral and southwestern Nebraska, the cooperative groups of the Equity Union often take the form of local grain exchanges that also deal in farmers' supplies. Although there was a Nebraska farm bureau with county agricultural agents in 1913, it was not until 1920 that the State organization became affiliated with the national set-up. The Farm Bureau has provided farmers with up-to-the-minute information concerning crops and soils; and has sponsored about 50 non-stock association farmers' supply stores.

Cooperative stores have had a varied career in Nebraska. By 1936 many of them were being run in conjunction with the 350 farmers' elevators scattered over the State. The Farmers Union, with about 25 stores located for the most part in northeastern Nebraska, also maintains the Farmers Union State Exchange at Omaha, a wholesale concern with 17 retail stores. The stores of the Farmers Equity Union have been unusually successful; most of them are associated with elevators.

There are 50 cooperative creameries (as distinguished from cream stations) in Nebraska; 20 of them act in both producer and consumer capacities, and deal in other commodities besides cream.

Other State cooperatives are the Nebraska Certified Potato-Growers Non-Stock Cooperative at Alliance, a concern that grades and handles most of the seed potatoes grown in western Nebraska; the Republican Valley Turkey Growers' Association at Red Cloud; the Northwest Nebraska Alfalfa Seed-Growers Association at Chadron; the Lincoln Non-Stock Commission Company at Omaha. Mutual telephone companies, cooperative banks, and mutual insurance companies give further evidence of the cooperative movement.

The first quarter of the twentieth century was for Nebraska a period of progressive legislation. Laws were passed establishing a commission to regulate rates and services of all common carriers, guaranteeing bank deposits, placing State institutions on a non-political basis, putting in motion a pay-as-you-go highway construction program, and creating a bipartisan game, forestation, and parks commission. It was also a happy era for the merchant, the banker, the schoolmaster, and the farmer. There

were no great floods, drought, or crop-destroying plagues; money was plentiful; farm lands were in brisk demand, grain prices were high; and mechanized farming was boosting production.

Nebraska sent 47,801 men to the World War, 1,000 of whom died in service. The staff of Base Hospital 49 at Allereye, France, was composed of Nebraska men and women. The State played an important part in supplying foodstuffs to the Allied and American Armies.

For two years after the Armistice, Nebraskans—generally speaking—were “in the money.” Good crops and skyrocketing prices made possible a brief era of wide speculation in stocks, bonds, and lands; an era of farm expansion and mechanized crop growing. Farmers, borrowing money from banks prodigal with credit, mortgaging their holdings to the hilt, bought more acres and crammed granaries already full to the bursting point. It was the day of the tractor, a machine fitted to bring immense fields under cultivation.

But an end came to \$1.50 corn and \$2.00 wheat, to speculative plunging and to selling farms for far beyond their real value. The change started in 1921, when the Federal Reserve center curtailed bank credit and wrecked the whole boom-time economic structure. Thousands of Nebraska farmers were forced to sell their livestock and produce on falling markets in order to reduce their notes. Prices paid for grain and livestock fell off from 50 to 70 percent, and farm property values took a corresponding tumble. Once again Nebraska agriculturists learned the meaning of forced sales, lost farmsteads, and deflated ambitions.

Bad though the situation was, it was only a prelude to the economic death march which moved over the State, the Nation, and the world in 1929. While the Wall Street crash of 1929 left a number of formerly well-to-do Nebraskan speculators with no roofs over their heads, a far greater calamity came when \$1.40 wheat dropped to 28 cents a bushel, and \$1.00 corn to 8 cents. This meant certain ruin to countless farmers operating one to three thousand dollars worth of machinery on tracts of land heavily mortgaged in expectation of continued bumper yields and good prices. Some crop growers were able to carry on only by borrowing to the limit on lands no longer valuable. Only 35,191 of Nebraska's 124,417 farms were mortgaged in 1920, but in 1930, 99,981 were debt-ridden. Many of these ultimately fell into the hands of banks that held paper against them; in 1936 they were owned by absentee landlords, operated by tenants often accustomed to the condition of landowners but now reduced to the precarious station of sharecroppers—when there were crops to share.

The condition of the farmers affected Nebraska merchants, lumber dealers, realtors, school teachers, laborers, and artisans. Housewives stocked their pantry shelves with the simplest essentials; construction lagged; school administrators curtailed their programs as tax receipts went down; day laborers, formerly sure enough of a place on Nebraska farms and in Nebraska industries, began the long trek of the unemployed.

The farming class was the first in the State to war against rock-bottom prices for produce, and against mortgages. The first concerted action in the Middle West took the form of revolt against the machinery of marketing. Originating in Iowa in the late summer of 1932 and sponsored by the Farm Holiday Association, this movement rapidly gained momentum, particularly in the dairying areas. Its adherents held mass meetings, picketed market centers, and clashed with opposing forces. By October the crop-growers and milk-producers were staging demonstrations and demanding a moratorium on farm indebtedness. Five thousand farmers swarmed over a farm near Elgin on October 6, raised \$100 to satisfy a first mortgage calling for many times that sum, and dismissed the holder of a second mortgage with empty pockets. This enforced liquidation of farm debts soon became a common practice throughout the farm belt. In northeastern Nebraska especially, the farmers rose up in rage and stopped tax sales and foreclosure proceedings.

Throughout November and December of 1932, despite the action of the Ninth District Court in granting an indefinite moratorium on farm mortgages (November 15), Nebraska was the scene of struggle between debtor and creditor, between near-insolvent farmers and mortgage-holding individuals, banks, and insurance companies. Violence increased. In some instances sheriffs refused to execute court orders for public sales.

On January 30, 1933, Governor Bryan set up an extra-legal State commission of conciliation. This commission appointed local boards wherever necessary to arrive at agreements between debtors and creditors, in order to keep the farmers on the land. Major insurance companies immediately fell into line, suspending all foreclosure actions indefinitely. The first mortgage moratorium bill, outcome of a series of State farm conferences and mass marches, materialized on March 2, 1933. This measure, introduced by the Governor himself and passed in double-quick time, provided for a stay of two years on actual transfer of title, to take effect before confirmation of the sale. Reaffirmed by the legislature of 1935, it was at its worst a doubtful victory for the farmers, since individual courts often continued to authorize transfer of title when real estate was sold to satisfy a mortgage; at its best it left the farmer in possession—although

not absolute—of his acres, and upheld the right of the mortgagee to collect whatever he could

After the election of a Democratic administration in 1932, pledged to a new deal for American agriculture and industry, numerous relief measures were enacted. For the farm owner there were long-term, low-interest Federal loans; for the tenant farmer there were corn-and-hog, seed, and allotment loans. During the dry years, 1934-35, farmers were able to borrow 45 cents a bushel on 10-cent corn from the Government, seal their cribs, and wait for a rising market. The results of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration program of crop control were obscured by the successive years of drought, which further cut crop yields as much as 50 to 75 percent. The economic effect of the present (1938) harvest is still undetermined.



Government

THE history of the forms of government in operation at various times since Nebraska became a Territory is both interesting and significant, reflecting the growth and development of the State.

In the central State government progressive developments have taken place in all three branches of administration: legislative, executive, and judicial. Nebraska's first constitution provided for 13 senators and 39 representatives; the constitution of 1875 made the numbers 30 and 84, with a clause permitting increase to 33 and 100. The size of the legislature did not change again until the unicameral plan went into effect in 1937, which brought the total number of legislators to 43.

In the executive department, the first constitution provided for only four officers: Governor, Secretary of State, auditor, and treasurer. The 1875 constitution added four new officers: Lieutenant Governor, attorney general, state superintendent of public instruction, and commissioner of public lands and buildings. Administrative agencies in the executive department were reorganized in 1919 into six main departments, each headed by a director appointed by the Governor. A few additional agencies were changed by the administration or by special legislation in 1935.

In the judicial branch provided for by the first constitution, the supreme court was composed of three members, and the district courts were presided over by these same judges. The constitution of 1875 provided for six district courts to be separate from and independent of the supreme court. A constitutional amendment adopted in 1908 increased the number of supreme court judges from three to seven, and also increased their salaries. Since then there has been an increase in the number of district judges (35 in 1938).

The predominant form of county government is the commissioner-precinct plan, in effect in two-thirds of the counties in the State. This plan provides for a county administrative board of three members with executive and quasi-legislative functions. The other counties have the supervisor-township plan, with an administrative council composed of seven supervisors elected by districts. The legislature of 1933 passed an act making it

possible for any county to adopt the county-manager plan, but a decision of the supreme court later held the act unconstitutional.

Four or five developments in city government are noteworthy. Before 1864, each municipality was obliged to secure a special charter from the legislature before it could be incorporated. This requirement placed so much of a burden on the legislature that acts were passed in 1864 and 1869 providing for the general incorporation of towns and villages. First- and second-class cities were to have the mayor and council plan of government, and villages were to be governed by a board of five trustees. In 1897 an act was passed providing for the initiative and referendum in Nebraska municipal government—the first initiative and referendum act passed in the United States.

In 1911 the Banning Act, a commission plan of city government, was adopted. The plan provided for a board of commissioners of three, five, or seven members, depending on the size of the city. A constitutional amendment in 1912 gave permission to any city of more than 5,000 population to frame its own charter, consistent with the constitution and statutes of the State. Finally the city manager plan was made available by legislative action. In 1936, Alliance was the only city that had adopted this plan.

A brief summary of the changes made in the State constitution since Territorial days gives an outline of the political history of Nebraska. The first constitution (1866), railroaded through the legislature without sufficient consideration or deliberation, was a sketchy statement of the powers and duties of the various organs of government. The salaries provided for State officials were, as someone said at the time, not as large as those of hod-carriers. A convention was called in 1871 to frame a new constitution, but the instrument drafted by that body was rejected by the voters. In 1875 a convention succeeded in framing a constitution—later ratified by popular vote—that has outlined more fully the organization and powers of the government officials and agencies and increased their salaries.

The 1875 constitution was soon outmoded because it left the amending process so difficult. A constitutional convention in 1919 proposed 41 amendments to the constitution of 1875; all amendments were later adopted by popular vote. Defects thus remedied included the process of amendment. After 1920 many amendments were adopted by popular vote, so that the State finally got a flexible, adequate constitution.



LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER, STATE CAPITOL

The Unicameral Legislature

A constitutional amendment adopted at the general election of 1934 made Nebraska a center of interest for political scientists and public officials in all parts of the country. This amendment provided that the State legislature thereafter should be composed of one house rather than two. Nebraska was the first State, in more than a century, to break away from political custom and experiment with a new type of law-making body.

The one-house legislature was first recommended in the 48-page report written by Secretary Addison E. Sheldon in 1914 and adopted by a joint committee of Senate and House in that year. This report was the basis of a discussion extending over 20 years. The movement that finally secured the change was largely the result of the work and influence of Senator George W. Norris, who drew up a tentative plan for the proposed amendment and worked with a State committee to get the measure brought to a popular vote in the November election of 1934.

The amendment as adopted in its final form provided for a unicameral legislature of not less than 30 and not more than 50 members, to be

elected by districts on a non-partisan ballot; it also provided for a considerable increase in the salaries of the legislators. The legislature of 1935 decided there should be 43 members in the new unicameral body, and divided the State into districts to correspond to that number. Under the new system the legislature meets once every two years for its regular sessions; special sessions are permissible whenever a majority of the legislators considers them necessary.

Advocates of the reform contended that the new plan would eliminate delays and deadlocks incident to the procedure of a two-house body; that the higher salary and greater prestige attached to membership would attract a higher type of citizen; that the non-partisan ballot would reduce the element of politics to a minimum; and that the familiar practice of shifting responsibility from one house to another would be eliminated. They further contended that the new system would be more economical, since the aggregate of the salaries would be less than that formerly paid to 133 members, the mileage allowances lower by half, and the employees considerably fewer. The opponents of the reform argued that the new plan would do away with checks which had operated between the houses of the bicameral legislature and had prevented hasty legislation. They argued that the group of 43 members would be much more susceptible to outside influence than the larger body of legislators, and that the elimination of party responsibility meant the loss of a beneficial feature. The new system, whatever the results, is an important experiment in this field.



Agriculture and the Farmer

FARMING by white men in Nebraska is hardly more than a hundred years old. In the final desperate days of the 1857 panic, when no one had time to consult experts on ways and means of farming in the Great American Desert, men who had lost their last dollar in the wild land speculation of the early fifties turned to agriculture as a last resort. And they farmed in the only way they knew—as their fathers had farmed in Ohio or Pennsylvania or the Old Country.

The result was a period of confusion, good and bad luck, and high-flown hopes for the future of this western land. Grasshoppers, storms, and drought kept life exciting enough; yet there remained in those early years a little of the idyllic quality of Indian farming. In the spring corn was planted by hand. In summer a horse and a man plodded up one side of the row and down the other, cultivating the corn with a crude double-shovel plow. In husking time, when the pioneer went to the field, he strapped a home-made wooden peg to his right hand by a leather thong to help cut the husks. It saved his hand and speeded up his work. The modern cornhusker uses a metal hook also strapped to the right hand. As a household pastime for winter evenings, the shelling was done by hand. The whole family might gather around the fire to help, using one ear to rub the kernels from another. Much of the corn was fed to livestock; some went into cornmeal and johnnycake. A part of the crop, even in those early years, came eventually to the levees at Omaha to be shipped down the river to eastern and southern markets.

Wheat was also shipped out on the river boats in the early sixties and later. This crop was generally of the spring variety, sown by hand, reaped with the scythe-and-frame contrivance known as a cradle, and threshed with a flail or a horse-powered machine. Other crops at that time were oats, rye, barley, potatoes, vegetables of various kinds, and melons. Wild hay grew thick on the plains and river meadows; wild grapevines and

plum or berry thickets lined the creeks. Stock and poultry, brought west with the covered wagons, thrived on the plentiful feed in the new country.

By the time Nebraska became a State in 1867 railroad exploitation of the Middle West was under way and the agriculture of the region was entering its greatest boom period. The free land provided by the Homestead Act of 1862 had not been a very great drawing force so long as the war continued and the myth of the western desert prevailed in the East. Peace and railroad propaganda removed these obstacles. To the cry of "follow Mormons and prairie dogs and find good land," Civil War veterans flocked into Nebraska, joining a vast stampede of unemployed workers, tenant farmers, and European immigrants.

Times were hard throughout most of this period of settlement. Grasshoppers swarmed over the State in the late sixties and early seventies; grain prices were low, and freight rates high. In the panic days of 1873, Nebraska farmers became lean and angry, muttering grimly of action against their apparent oppressor, the railroads. The bitterness and tension of those times, the days of the Grange movement, were eased only by the return of better growing weather. About 1880 the rains became more regular and the booster spirit once more took hold in Nebraska.

In the subsequent period of good crops, Nebraska became a magnificent gold-plated fool's paradise. Eastern investors had decided that Nebraska was a good investment; so they poured money into the region. Farmers who had slaved on a little land, with primitive equipment, suddenly discovered easy credit available. They slapped green-and-gold printed mortgages on all they owned, using the money to buy more land, more horses, and more machinery—twine binders for wheat and mechanical corn planters. While the dairy industry was growing in eastern Nebraska, fortunes were spent to extend the beef cattle industry into the semibarren lands of the western frontier. By 1890 the typical Nebraska family was saddled with one or two mortgages. Millions of Eastern dollars were staked on the weather and crops of the State.

The rains continued and the crash held off until 1890. Then drought set in; pastures and fields were scorched by winds; the cattle industry was ruined. All but two of the next ten years were dry, and for five years there were no crops at all in some sections. Abrupt cessation of credit left thousands of farmers stranded with nothing to sell or eat. In the year 1891 alone, eighteen thousand prairie schooners trundled over the Missouri River and out of Nebraska. Only the most hardy, determined farmers remained to fight the hard times of the nineties.

The fight was difficult. But under the hands of these tougher farmers



CUTTING WHEAT

a more distinctly prairie agriculture began to emerge. Alfalfa came into some degree of favor as a drought-resistant crop. In the river valleys the practice of irrigation began (*see NATURAL SETTING*). In drier parts of the State farmers learned that if the ground lies fallow in alternate years, better crops are raised in the other seasons. Many wheat growers adopted the rotary drill for planting their grain in fall instead of spring, and harvests doubled.

Considerable progress was made in sugar-beet growing. This crop got its start in Nebraska in the late eighties, when a number of Hall County citizens, Henry Koenig among them, became interested in the beet-growing possibilities of their locality. Acting in cooperation with the State university and the Federal Government, these citizens obtained beet seed and parceled it out to seventy or eighty Hall County farmers to be tried out in various soils. It was discovered that native seed was inferior to the small amount of imported seed which they had accidentally procured; so a large amount was ordered the next year from Germany. As experimentation went on, the farmers found their results were better than those in either Germany or France. By the nineties, the production of sugar beets was gaining headway.

Even with these new gains in crops and methods, there were years when

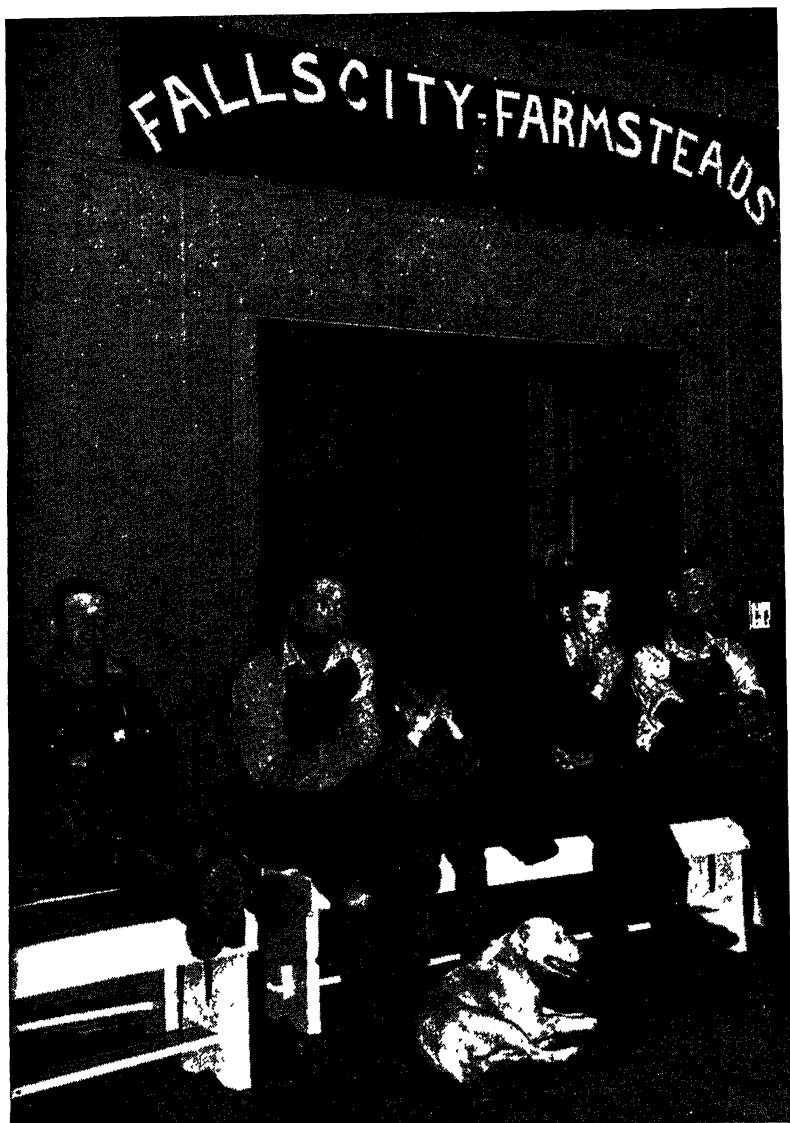
farmers went hungry and idle. But out of this very hunger and idleness came another development—the revival of militant agrarian class consciousness and the spirit of revolt. The year 1890 was memorable for its turbulent mass meetings. Crops were ruined by drought, there was no work to do, so farmers piled into their buggies and wagons and went to hear speeches about the tyranny of the railroads and the villainy of eastern speculators. Feeling flared up in favor of a third political party, the result was strong support for the Populist movement. In the Presidential election of 1892, Nebraska barely missed going Populist. Cooperative marketing became a common practice during these hard years (*see HISTORY*). About 1897 the drought cycle came to an end, times improved, and most farmers went back to conservative views.

The pre-World War years that followed the turn of the century were fairly serene for Nebraska farmers: the period was one of gradual expansion and moderate prosperity. Western Nebraska was a special center for development, and before long the high plains of the Panhandle were being exploited by the "suitcase" farmers—men who did not live in the West but only went there twice a year: once to plant their wheat, and again to take care of the harvest.

During this period the agriculture of the State fell into the general scheme that still prevails. This scheme included diversified farming for nearly all the State: farming which involves raising several crops in a single area, so that if one crop is hailed out, dried up, or eaten by bugs, another may survive to tide the farmer over. Because of variations in soil and climate, different parts of Nebraska put emphasis on different products. The west has become well known for wheat, sugar beets, and potatoes; the sandhills and north central drift country for hay and cattle; the eastern section for corn and hogs. But there have never been many exclusive crop areas in Nebraska. Corn—the crop for which the State is most widely known—has been raised in every county in Nebraska. For as Old Jules Sandoz observed, "Wherever sunflowers grow, you can raise corn." And Nebraska rarely has a shortage of sunflowers.

The World War did not at first cause much alarm to the farmers of Nebraska. Indeed, they saw commercial advantage in it, for the European strife created an increased foreign demand not only for munitions but also for draft horses, mules, and beef, and for grain produced on the plains of the Middle West. For these products the Allied Powers paid well—with American credit.

After America entered the World War, there was strict economy on the farm: many children were brought up on johnnycake instead of bread. But



FARMSTEAD COOPERATIVE MEETING, FALLS CITY



POWER FARMING, WESTERN NEBRASKA

prices continued to boom to fantastic levels. Farmers who lived through the war years in Nebraska shake their heads and mutter that "everything went crazy somehow." Corn brought \$1.50 a bushel, wheat \$2. Many farmers were apparently frenzied by such prosperity and refused to sell their products, envisioning even wilder prices. When ordinary land was offered at the ridiculous price of \$300 or more an acre, any number of Nebraska stockmen and grain growers mortgaged all their property in order to invest in additional acreage and multiply their crops and herds. They seemed to believe that \$2 wheat was certain to come in bumper crops forever.

When the crash inevitably followed in the early twenties, it was not only the shiftless farmers who were trapped by foreclosure or crushing indebtedness. Some of the steadiest of conservative, hard-working farmers are still struggling against hopelessly large mortgages, trying to pay the wartime prices for land they bought for themselves or their marriageable sons. By 1930 there had been so many foreclosures, so many transfers from owner to renter status, that nearly half the farms in the State were tenant-managed. This meant that in percentage of tenancy (47.1 percent, according to the 1930 Census) Nebraska ranked alarmingly high among the States.

The tenancy situation has become an all-important problem in Nebraska agriculture of the later thirties. Farm moratoriums and Federal assistance eased the dangerous tension of the farm revolt days but for thousands of Nebraska farmers existence remained uncertain and unstable. It may appear that every farmer is driving a car; fast tractors, good horses, and improved machinery are ordinary parts of a summer landscape; and in years of good rainfall, when the corn stands tall and the wheat is ready for harvest, it is not immediately obvious that the soil has been harmed. But many tenants' wives still carry water from windmills, and thousands of farmhouses lack electricity, because few tenants feel secure enough to risk investing in improvements on the owners' property and few landlords are able or willing to bear the expense. If good crops are still raised, it is due in many cases to the use of improved machinery on land that is steadily deteriorating as a result of tenant carelessness or misuse. Community life also suffers; every year sees an exodus of impoverished farmers from the typical farm community, and the arrival of others no better off.

In the meantime the tenancy situation in Nebraska is somewhat offset by the fair standard of farm living. In the middle thirties an average farm income (in cash and commodities) was about a thousand dollars, somewhat lower than it had been ten years before. Nearly half of this—including a good deal of food—was produced on the farm. The typical Nebraska farmer likes to boast that "come what may, the farmer always has something to eat," and his wife usually devotes many hours a year to the preserving of fruits, meat, and jellies, and to the making of quilts, rugs, and other furnishings.

Nebraska can make no claim to a self-sufficient agrarian culture, however. The farmer does a great deal of buying and must have a cash income. About two-thirds of this farm income in the State comes from the carloads of fat hogs, cattle, and lambs that are shipped to Omaha and elsewhere, and from the sale of dairy and poultry produce. The livestock industry is so important that Nebraska ranks second among the States in hog raising, and third in raising cattle. The 1,567,000 hogs raised in Nebraska in 1936 were valued at \$14.10 per head; the 3,037,000 cattle at \$31 per head.

The crop which brings the readiest cash income to the State is wheat. A total of 47,339,000 bushels was produced in Nebraska in 1936, valued on the average at \$1.03 a bushel. In the production of winter wheat Nebraska is surpassed only by Kansas. As the size of farms increases, owing to foreclosures and other circumstances, and as the fast and efficient grain combines become more popular with large-scale farmers, wheatfields are steadily becoming larger in Nebraska. One of the most picturesque phases



GANG PLOW, PINE RIDGE

of the modern farm scene is the wheat harvest in the southwestern tableland counties. The combines are often seen running long after sundown, their giant spotlights cutting the darkness.

Corn is less important as a cash crop, but is raised so extensively for feeding as well as marketing that Nebraska ranks with Illinois and Iowa as a leading corn State. In normal years the crop averages over 100 million bushels. In 1936, a drought year, the yield was 26,859,000 bushels, valued at \$1.13 a bushel. Fruit growing is a minor source of income, important only in southeastern counties. Oats and lesser grains are generally grown for feeding purposes. Wild hay is not a principal crop, but more of it is shipped from the State than from any other part of the Nation. Nebraska's 1936 crop of wild hay, 1,114,000 short tons worth \$7.60 a ton, was inferior in size and value to the State's tame hay crop for the same year: 1,631,000 short tons at \$10 73.

The several varieties of tame hay, notably clover and alfalfa, are significant in the future of Nebraska farming. Their value as drought-resistant, soil-building crops is not yet realized by many farmers who choose to follow the ways of their emigrant grandfathers. But with progressive farmers, the popularity of forage crops is increasing. In some of the western coun-

ties more than a hundred ricks of alfalfa may be counted in one landscape. Sugar beets are also likely to gain in importance: at present Nebraska ranks next to Colorado in beet production. In 1936 the State produced 783,000 short tons of sugar beets, valued at \$5.91 per ton.

After almost a hundred years, the main problem in Nebraska agriculture is the same faced by the early settlers: that of adapting size of farm and production of corn and livestock to the soil, climate, and economic conditions of a country that has never been completely mastered. Properly managed, a farm in Nebraska will usually produce well, and will yield a stable income as long as prices are fair and financial panics hold off. Whether proper management will eventually become the rule in Nebraska agriculture depends largely on what can be done to alleviate the tenancy situation, and to teach the farmers improved methods of cultivation and soil conservation.

Industry and Labor

NEBRASKA had little commercial industry before 1880. In the days when the fur companies ruled the Northwest, trading posts did a brisk business at Brownville, Nebraska City, Bellevue, Omaha City, and other points on the Missouri River. To these centers, whites and Indians brought the pelts of bear, marten, gray wolf, otter, deer, elk, and buffalo—animals now rare in the State outside of the refuges established for their protection. The scarcity of salt on the frontier led to the erection of evaporation tubs around deposits near Lincoln, and their operators enjoyed a considerable trade with settlers and emigrants until the late sixties, when the introduction of cheaper eastern salt in quantity made the industry at Lincoln unprofitable.

The early settlers raised enough sod corn and garden truck to keep themselves alive, eking out their diet with wild fruits, game, and fish. But there was no marketable surplus. Sweet sorghum was grown for sirup. Lye was made from wood ashes, and soap from lye and fats. Commodities like coffee, tea, sugar, baking soda, salt, and spices were imported with some difficulty and at a high price. Small gristmills and sawmills were set up on the streams to care for local needs. Community industries that eventually grew to commercial importance were flour milling and brick making.

Stock raising in the Platte Valley and the Panhandle was commercial from the first. In the days of the overland trails, emigrants swapped their footsore cattle for fresh animals along the route. Later the pioneer herds were augmented by longhorns moving from the south to Ogallala, Sidney, and other shipping points. When the railroads opened up markets for Nebraska's products—farm produce and livestock—the farmers and feeders brought in high grade beef and dairy cattle from the East, and the lean longhorns began steadily to be replaced by more profitable types. In the last quarter of the nineteenth century, when most of the State was still open range, the cattle industry had its most spectacular growth. After the range was portioned off to settlers the industry continued to be important, but often it took a place second to farming; smaller and better-selected herds became the rule. Extensive cattle ranches may still be seen in north-

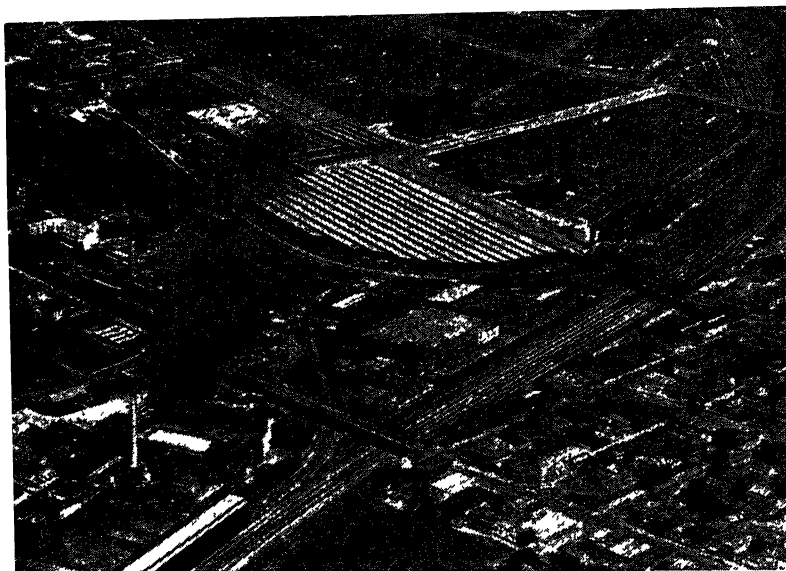
western Nebraska, but cattle for the prime beef market are fattened on the feed lots of forage growers. Besides beef and dairy cattle, Nebraska raises and breeds horses and mules, hogs, sheep and goats. Traffic in horses and mules is lively throughout the State, but especially at Grand Island and Omaha.

Dairying, poultry raising, and egg production, which are of comparatively recent growth, have become substantial industries. Creameries and creamery stations are found all through the State, but the majority are in and around Omaha, Lincoln, Grand Island, Fremont, Hastings, and Orleans. Most important of their products is butter, with cheese and condensed and evaporated milk next in commercial value. Many creameries serve as agents—purchasing and shipping eggs, poultry, and other products.

Geographic position and topography made Omaha one of the Nation's railroad centers and Council Bluffs (Iowa), across the Missouri, a transfer point for the western region. This in turn encouraged the development of facilities for marketing and for processing the products of the soil. To a lesser but important degree it has promoted the manufacture of farm implements and supplies. It is estimated that the commercial value of the State's manufactured goods slightly exceeds that of its agricultural products. This statement is deceptive unless it is understood that "manufactured goods" includes processed agricultural products, and that "agricultural products" means such products in the raw. The Bureau of the Census reports that \$192,126,000 worth of raw materials were turned into \$225,445,000 worth of finished products by Nebraska manufacturers in 1935.

The leading manufacturing industry is meat packing. Stockyard reports show that farmers and feeders in the eastern and central counties, and stockmen in the Panhandle, ship to market an annual average of nearly 1,500,000 beef cattle, not far from 5,000,000 hogs (in normal years), and well above 1,000,000 sheep. Most prime livestock is shipped to the larger packing houses in Omaha, and lesser volumes to packers at Hastings, Grand Island, McCook, Scottsbluff, Falls City, and Lincoln. The four leading Omaha packing houses employ about 7,000 men, and their annual product has a value of nearly \$150,000,000.

Crop industries, in the order of their importance, are raising and processing grain and forage crops and sugar beets, and raising potatoes, fruits, vegetables, and flowers. The sugar-beet industry has become important in western Nebraska within the past 20 years, though the value of the crop, as of 1935, was less than a tenth that of the State's wheat crop for the same year. Crop tonnage in sugar beets for that year was 625,000, a total



STOCKYARDS, OMAHA

surpassed by only three of the nine sugar-beet States. Refined sugar totaled 95,000 tons

Milling has undergone a revolution in the State since gristmill days. Large-scale commercial flour, feed, and grain mills operate at Lincoln, Crete, Omaha, Grand Island, Lexington, Scottsbluff, Hastings, and Ravenna; the manufacture of bread and other bakery products is carried on extensively.

Railroad car making and repairing, a relatively important industry, is centered in Lincoln and Omaha. Minor industries are the manufacture of foundry and machine products, canning vegetables and fruits, making furniture, leather goods, wearing apparel, stock feeds, and miscellaneous articles.

As a rule, metallic ores are imported from other States to be refined and converted into farm machinery and other finished products. Mink, muskrat, raccoons, beaver, skunk, and other small animals are still trapped by farmers and nearly \$1,000,000 worth of raw fur is marketed annually.

Building construction employs more people in the State than does any other enterprise. As in most areas, this industry came to a standstill after 1929 and showed no signs of reviving for several years. In 1937 it gave

employment to about 16,000 professional, skilled, and unskilled workers, and renewed the demand for native brick. Ferrous metal plants, automobile repair shops, and a variety of factories employ about 12,000 workers. About 4,000 work in printing, engraving and publishing, which flourish especially in the larger cities. About the same number of workers find employment at miscellaneous manual trades.

Labor struggles in Nebraska's few rail and industrial centers have followed the character and trend of labor struggles in similar centers throughout the country. Nor is the dominant agrarian population of the State a stranger to the struggle for organization and the betterment of conditions. The Grange movement of the seventies; the Farmers' Alliance of the eighties and nineties; farmers' cooperatives for the establishment of elevators, stores, oil stations, and creameries under producer ownership; the Farmers' Union and the Farmers' Equity Union—cooperative organizations—all these represented attempts by various means to obtain a fair price for farm products and good value for farm money spent.

Staggering mortgage burdens, falling prices, and increased tenantry were major factors in the farmers' revolt of 1932. Nebraska farmers joined the Farm Holiday Association to struggle for relief from the pressure that was turning them into debt-laden laborers for absentee proprietors. They fought foreclosures and sales for taxes by group action, and gained an indefinite moratorium on farm mortgages late in 1932. The National Administration which came into office in 1933 brought about important changes in the farmers' economic condition (*see HISTORY*).

In the latter part of 1936 the Farmer-Labor Party extended its activities to Nebraska and for a time it looked as though the movement might attain substantial proportions. Farm Labor Club No. 1 was established, mainly by white-collar workers, in the hope that it might serve as nucleus for a State-wide organization. A few issues of a farmer-labor newspaper were published and distributed in several towns and areas. The movement lagged, however, mainly because the passing of the election year brought relaxation of interest in political matters.

Recently (1938) Labor's Non-Partisan League and the Farmers' Educational and Cooperative Union have formed the Joint Committee on Cooperative Enterprise for the promotion of consumer cooperatives. This may mark a significant step in the realization of common interest and participation in a common struggle by both organized farm operators of various degrees of independence, and organized workers of many occupations, including agricultural.

When the movement to organize farm workers spread to Nebraska in



PACKING APPLES

1914, the farmers themselves regarded it with hostility; and this hostility increased as the struggle for bettering the conditions of farm workers progressed. The movement was a project of the I. W. W. (Industrial Workers of the World) which was attempting to organize unskilled labor not effectively reached by other labor groups. In Nebraska the struggle was especially acute. This was owing to three factors: Omaha, like Kansas City and Minneapolis, was a principal labor market for agricultural workers—which in the West means migrant or casual workers—followers of the harvest. As the workers moved north through Nebraska after the harvests in Oklahoma and Kansas, they were able to bargain with more firmness, for part of their first earnings was still in their pockets. Nebraska was on the main route to the Far West. Omaha was a key rail transport center for the transcontinental roads, and it was on these lines that the I. W. W. put on an intensive campaign to organize all migrant workers and permit none but “red card” men to ride the freights from job to job. Omaha was also for many years the “slave market” for construction labor on the railroads extending west.

The agricultural section of the I. W. W. was chartered in April 1915, and members assigned to the drive spread out by rail over the agricultural States of the West. After Oklahoma and Kansas had been covered the delegates went north, working among the migrant laborers following the harvest into Nebraska. As a result of pressure, wages were raised, food improved, and hours shortened for the agricultural workers.

The period of most effective I. W. W. activity in Nebraska coincided with the first three years of the World War (1914-1917) when agricultural prices were high and labor was in demand. With America's entry into the War, patriotic sentiment fanned the resentment of Nebraska farmers against the organized farm labor movement, and a "criminal syndicalism" law was enacted in 1918. This, together with disruption within the I. W. W., ended its influence in Nebraska.

At present extensive organizing activity among the migrant toilers of the sugar-beet fields is being carried on by the C. I. O. (Congress for Industrial Organization). The owners of the fields plow, seed, and harrow their land, but contract with the migrant workers for the care and harvesting of the crop, which require exhaustive hand labor. Shacks at the edge of the fields are occupied from mid-May to October by the families of Mexicans, Spanish-Americans, and Germans who toil through the summer, thinning, hoeing, and pulling and topping. Labor units are figured in terms of families, not individuals; the head of a family contracts to care for as much acreage as the work-capacity of his household seems to warrant; a family with three working members usually cares for 20 acres, which average 12 tons of beets per acre. In 1937 the average payment for care per acre was \$20.50. This may be increased somewhat under the Sugar Control Act of 1937. The same act also placed a minimum age limit on beet field workers—14 years. Prior to the passage of the act the work-capacity of a member of the family might be decided by the father's estimate of what the child could bear, and the present regulation is difficult to enforce. Beet growing has been one of the most profitable forms of agriculture practiced in Nebraska.

Most of Nebraska's Negro workers are employed in industrial plants and by the railroads. Many came to Omaha to work in the packing houses during the World War.

As might be expected, most of Nebraska's serious industrial strikes have taken place in Omaha, with its packing houses, iron and steel works, creameries, and rail terminals. Of the State's 1,377,963 people, only about 71,000 are employed in manufacturing and mechanical industries, but an additional 21,500 work for the six major railroad systems. Both railroads and industrial plants have been the scene of serious and violent disputes.

In 1882 Omaha experienced its first strike to receive national notice. In February about 75 workmen, engaged in moving dirt for a railroad contractor, struck for better pay. There was a parade, but no rioting. Nevertheless, on March 12 the Governor called out the State militia to impress the strikers. The militia soon became involved in scuffles with the strikers, and a by-stander was killed. Federal troops were called out.

Six years later occurred the Great Q Strike, which affected the Burlington's lines throughout the State. During the summer of 1888 the locomotive crews struck so effectively that traffic was brought to a standstill. The strike was broken by non-union crews from the East.

Railroad labor remained fairly tranquil after this until the spring of 1902, when the machinists and boilermakers walked out at the Union Pacific shops in North Platte in protest against introduction of the piece-work system. They held their ground, fighting for their jobs against strikebreakers with police protection, for almost a year. Local sympathy was at first with them. Eventually, however, the strikebreakers were accepted by the townspeople and even by the strikers; the strike died through attrition and men drifted back to work with a pay raise of a half cent an hour.

More serious and widespread was the Havelock strike of 1922, when a strike was called for the Burlington shops against a pay cut. Shopmen struck throughout the State, as they had to a large extent throughout the Nation. About 2,000 Nebraska shopmen were involved. The violence that occurred in the course of this strike was without precedent in the State's labor history.

The streetcar strike which began in Omaha in April 1934 is technically still in effect (1938). After two minor strikes 235 streetcar workers left the job, demanding recognition of their right to organize. For four days and nights the strikers and their sympathizers resisted the company's attempts to operate the cars with strikebreakers. Two persons were killed, scores were manhandled and injured, streetcars were wrecked and demolished, and motor-men were beaten and left lying on the streets. After the fourth night, State militiamen appeared on the scene and the city was placed under martial law. A truce was drawn up but was quickly broken. The company's present operators are non-union.

Though such restrictive measures as the anti-picketing and criminal syndicalism laws are still in force, many improvements in labor conditions have been brought about in Nebraska through legislative means. The State's labor laws require inspection of industrial plants, and regulate the working conditions of women and children. Safety and health regulations have been codified, and compensation has been provided for workers in-



PEELING PINE FOR FENCE-POSTS

jured in line of duty. Wage levels and working hours are determined by local circumstances or, in the case of organized labor, by arbitration. Under the Wagner-Payser Act an employment service was set up in 1936, with district offices at Lincoln, Omaha, and Norfolk. The service, now statewide, handles placements in both private industry and Federal employ.

The usual craft unions exist in Nebraska. The A. F. of L. is now engaged in organizing teamsters and sugar refinery workers throughout the State. The C. I. O. is making progress in organizing workers in the packing houses, the steel plants, and other industrial establishments, as well as in the agricultural area already mentioned.



Transportation and Communication

AT THE forks of the Platte River, in the sixties, the west-bound traveler might still lose his scalp to the Indians, but he had the privilege, at least, of coming to his doom in a coach-and-four over a new stage line that boasted fast regular service between Missouri and California. Once safely in Denver, the traveler needed only a few minutes to get word of his safety back to the home folks in the East by the newly installed telegraph. To Nebraskans in the early sixties this was strange and exhilarating.

Delight in the telegraph, and in the Overland Mail coach with its record of 110 to 115 miles a day, was natural enough to men who had settled in Nebraska in the fifties, to those who remembered the snail's pace of gold rush and Mormon migration days. Making their way on horseback, on foot, or in covered wagons drawn by oxen, the earliest travelers had required weeks to beat a trail through the sand, mud, prairie grass, and thickets of Nebraska Territory. Communication was then a matter of "tell so-and-so I said . . ." or of entrusting notes to travelers for delivery. Even when the Overland Mail was established at the beginning of the fifties the coaches carried mail only once—later twice—a month.

The pony express was organized privately in 1860 and ran twice a week, carrying "fast mail." "Slow mail" was carried by the coaches. Along the express route, which followed the line of the Oregon Trail through Nebraska, some 80 riders carried mail in their saddlebags at the amazing speed of 200 miles a day. As a fast mail-carrying agency, the express disappointed no one; as a money-making enterprise, however, it left much to be desired. Operating costs—despite the fact that dispatching a heavy letter by express from the Missouri River to California cost the sender \$25—far exceeded income. After 18 months the enterprise failed, to be succeeded shortly by the overland telegraph.

The daily stage, as established by Ben Holladay in 1861, also crossed Nebraska over the Oregon Trail, carrying mail and passengers. The old



OREGON TRAIL MONUMENT BY FRED L. KIMBALL

Concord coach, resembling a box mounted on small wheels in front and larger wheels behind, was drawn by four, or six, horses or mules. Road history was made and records were broken when Holladay, riding in one of his boxes on wheels, thundered from Salt Lake to Atchison, averaging 160 miles a day, at a cost of \$10 a mile!

Under Holladay's management the stagecoach business reached its height. It was in his time that Artemus Ward, journeying up the Platte Valley, dryly observed en route that the Platte "would be a good river if set on edge." During the sixties Holladay's coaches carried most of the western travelers and western mail. He cleared a million dollars, spending most of it on oil paintings, bronze lions, and mansions in the East.

In November 1866 the Wells Fargo Company bought out Holladay, and continued to operate his lines until the railroads supplanted the coaches as common carriers. The Wells Fargo Company continued in existence until July 1918, at which time the express companies merged to form the American Railway Express, now the Railway Express Agency.

The story of freight transportation in Nebraska prior to the building of the Union Pacific is a story of keelboats, river steamboats, pack horses, and wagon trains. As early as 1862, however, a bold venture in steam locomotion was made by Maj. J. R. Brown. Acquiring a huge "steam wagon" with 10-foot drive wheels, Brown attached ten "cars" (freight wagons) to it, proposing to carry some 35 tons of freight over the Nebraska City-Fort Kearney short cut. This smoke-belching truck-locomotive actually lumbered out of Nebraska City one spring morning, rolled over the first 8 miles of its maiden trip, and then broke down. For the next 10 years it stood rusting by the side of the road, ultimately finding its way into a junk heap. Meanwhile, freight continued to move at its old lazy rate of 12 or 15 miles a day, the usual gait of the long ox-drawn trains which the railway—and not the "steam wagon"—eventually displaced.

The first telegraph line in Nebraska Territory was strung from St. Joseph, Missouri, to Brownville in August 1860; by the end of that month the *New York Times* observed that the telegraph had been extended "westward to the half-peopled wilds of Nebraska." At the formal opening of the telegraph office in Brownville, a greeting was sent out to the "States of the Union."

The telegraph was extended westward to Salt Lake City, where it met the line from San Francisco. Wires were originally strung along the roadways, fenceposts often being pressed into service. Telegraph companies paid the bills; but frequently public-spirited Nebraskans, more than willing to "annihilate time and space," contributed time and money. With the

coming of the railroad, however, telegraph lines were built on the same right of way, and their construction was financed jointly.

Although the Missouri River meanders some 3,000 miles from its remote source, the headwaters of the Jefferson River in Montana, to the point where it enters the Mississippi 20 miles above St. Louis, the Nebraska segment extends only about 400 miles, forming the eastern boundary of the State. While it is true that the stream will permit the passage of flat-bottomed boats as far north as Great Falls, Montana, during the season of high water, navigators have seldom ventured beyond the mouth of the Yellowstone. To all except the Indians and a few trappers whose travels took them into the unknown land of the Northwest, the Missouri River system was a mystery until 1804, when President Jefferson sent out the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

After Lewis and Clark more hunters and trappers came, with keel boats and mackinaws, bull boats and canoes, and crafts well adapted to the dangers of the Missouri. Keel boats, light draft barges 60 to 70 feet in length, were hauled up the river by towlines, the men walking along the bank with the ropes over their shoulders. The mackinaw boat, very common on the upper Missouri, was a flat-bottomed, sharp-prowed vessel propelled by oars. The bull boat was ordinarily 25 feet long and 12 feet wide, with a framework of long pliable poles intersected at right angles by shorter ones, the entire structure made watertight by a covering of dressed buffalo hides.

Maj. Stephen H. Long and his party were responsible for bringing the first steamboat up the troubled waters of the Missouri. On September 16, 1819, these men piloted the *Western Engineer* up to Fort Lisa, somewhat beyond the present site of Omaha, demonstrating that the Missouri was navigable for light-draft boats. Eleven years later the American Fur Company took advantage of this fact and launched the first fleet of engine-driven boats to travel the Missouri River, including the *Yellowstone*, the *Assiniboin*, the *Omega*, and the *Nimrod*.

As early as 1854, the year of its founding, Omaha City was headquarters for the Great Plains trade in buffalo hides. During its period of greatest trade, the Omaha levee averaged one steamer a day; it was the landing place for the *West Wind*, the *Kate Kinney*, the *Star of the West*, the *Omaha*, the *Fontenelle*, and the *Fannie Tatum*. For the passenger trade there were fast side-wheelers with fine cabins. Omaha's shipping industry was thriving by 1857, when no fewer than 50 boats were running on the Missouri River as far north as that city. During this year 174 steamboats arrived and left over 13,000 tons of freight.

The height of this river traffic was reached in 1859, when 268

steamboats arrived and stopped at the Omaha levee. At this time, too, various steamboat agents were doing a rushing business in the river towns from Brownville to Fort Benton, Montana. All through the summer months, boats traveled the Missouri; but winter navigation, for obvious reasons, was out of the question. As a consequence, the arrival of the first boat in the spring was a red-letter day for the people of the river landings. With cheers, amid roaring cannons, they flocked to the levees to see the boat come in. There were steamboat dances, with the picturesque river captains as hosts.

In 1866 the Union Pacific Transfer Company instituted its ferry service between Omaha City and Council Bluffs, Iowa, to handle supplies and equipment used in the construction of the transcontinental railroad. Although a good deal of the material for the new railway was brought overland from the East, most of it came up the Missouri to Omaha on steamboats. On July 6, 1866, the *Elkhorn* steamed up to the levee, towing two Union Pacific barges loaded with 900 bars of irons and 36,000 bushels of coal.

By 1870 navigation on the lower Missouri had reached its height. But the owners of stern-wheel and side-wheel steamers were losing their prosperity, for their welfare depended largely upon the very thing that was soon to destroy them—the railroads. Today, navigation on the Missouri River is hardly known although a movement is now under way—the Missouri River Improvement Project—to deepen this watercourse and confine it to a permanent channel. If this is done, river commerce may in time regain some of its early volume.

In the first years of the nineteenth century the idea of a transcontinental railway spread through the North and West. Chief among its early promoters in Nebraska were John C. Frémont and General Leavenworth, commandant at Fort Atkinson who in 1825 urged the building of a Pacific railway as a military measure. The first proposal for the construction of a railroad was contained in three memorials submitted to Congress between 1845 and 1848 by Asa Whitney, a wealthy New York merchant, who was willing to build a road from Lake Michigan to the Pacific coast. This proposal failed to win the approval of Congress, but it did put the railroad project squarely up to that body, and for 12 years following 1850 the matter was a national issue. Probably the most significant of various proposals considered was a bill drawn up by Stephen A. Douglas which proposed three great lines, one from Texas to the Pacific, one from Missouri or Iowa to San Francisco, and one from Wisconsin to the Pacific. After the Civil War, when northern promoters turned to railroad building, the



BUILDING THE UNION PACIFIC

great trunk lines closely followed the routes outlined in the Douglas measure.

In 1853 a survey of routes was authorized by Congress. Not until 1862, however, when southern opposition to northern routes had been removed by the secession of the southern States, was a route finally decided on. Two years after the Pacific Railway Act, a second act was passed; it increased the generous subsidies to the builders, and gave the Government only a second mortgage on the road.

The Union Pacific was authorized to build westward to the borders of Nevada, and the Central Pacific was to build eastward from the Pacific Coast to meet it. Because of the land grants, great rivalry developed between the two companies. The Union Pacific had been granted a two-hundred-foot right-of-way, as well as land for all necessary stations, depots, shops, buildings, and the like; it had also been granted the right to take earth, stone, timber, and "other materials" from the public lands for construction purposes. In addition, "for the purpose of aiding construction . . . and to secure the safe and speedy transportation of mails, troops, munitions of war, and public stores thereon," the company was granted "every alternate section of public land . . . to the amount of five alternate sections per mile on each side of said railroad, on the line thereof and

within the limit of ten miles on each side of said road." The Government also issued bonds of \$1,000 each at the ratio of 16 bonds to a mile.

Since the lands nearest the railroad were the ones most desired by early settlers, the railroad companies profited greatly through the sale of their Government grants. Though the Homestead Act of 1862 created the alternate sections as public lands open to settlement, dummy homesteaders and obliging local officials sometimes invalidated Congressional intentions. The railroad companies instigated much of the boom literature of the homesteading period of the West.

The new Union Pacific Company, backed by United States credit and the fortunes of such men as Thomas Durant and W. H. Gray, obtained, through land grants, 4,846,108 acres of land in Nebraska alone, chiefly in the Platte Valley. The first ground for the railroad was broken at Omaha on December 2, 1863, but the first rail was not laid until July 10, 1865. Between these dates occurred the heated controversy over the site of the Union Pacific's eastern terminus. Many people considered that Bellevue, six miles south of Omaha, was the only logical "gateway to the West." Omaha, however, was determined not to lose its commercial supremacy. Eventually it won, and became active in the development of the railway industry.

Despite many difficulties, westward railroad construction was soon going forward rapidly. By September 22, 1865, 10 miles of track were in place, and more was being laid at the rate of a mile a day. Almost 250 miles of railroad were built in 1866, and 240 miles in 1867. In the following year 425 miles of track were completed and the rails of the Union Pacific and the Central Pacific were united at Promontory Point, Utah, on May 10, 1869.

Nebraska's first railroad followed the ox-bow line (now replaced by Lane's Cut-Off) "down the Mud Creek Valley nearly to Bellevue, and then northwest, following West Papillion Creek to a point of convergence with the original line, between four and five miles from the place of crossing the Elkhorn." West of the Elkhorn River the railway closely skirted the north bank of the Platte and passed through Columbus, Grand Island, and Kearney to North Platte. Here it crossed the North Platte River and ran up the Lodgepole Valley, between the forks, to Sidney and Kimball, then across Wyoming to the shore of Great Salt Lake.

As early as August 1866 the Union Pacific was carrying passengers from Omaha to Kearney, a distance of 190 miles; and by May of 1868 the same service was available as far as Cheyenne, Wyoming. Five months later, trains were making regular runs across Wyoming to Bridger's Pass.

The completion at Omaha in 1872 of the first permanent railroad bridge across the Missouri allowed the Union Pacific to make connections with the three lines then spanning Iowa—the Burlington & Missouri (now the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy), the Mississippi & Missouri (now the Rock Island), and the Chicago, Iowa & Nebraska (now the Chicago & North Western).

Other railroad organizations, realizing the potentialities of a country soon to be peopled by settlers, and encouraged by liberal land grants from both the Federal and the State Governments, threw branch lines into the regions south and north of the Platte in the early seventies. The Burlington, starting from Plattsmouth in July 1869, reached Lincoln a year later. In 1872 this line was extended to form a junction with the Union Pacific at Kearney. The distance between Nebraska City and Lincoln was spanned in 1871 by the rails of the Midland Pacific, now a part of the Burlington system, which later built westward through Seward, York, and Aurora to Central City. In 1870 the St. Joseph & Denver entered Nebraska, and reached Hastings two years later. North of the Platte River, the Sioux City & Pacific was constructed from Missouri Valley, Iowa, to Fremont, and the Omaha & Northwestern reached Blair. The Union Pacific also built branches to various parts of Nebraska from its trunk line running through the State.

Though transportation by rail had its start in Nebraska in the sixties, it was during the period 1870–1890 that the railroads wielded their greatest influence in the making of the State. Seeing the financial unsoundness of building railroads in an area so thinly populated as Nebraska then was, the Union Pacific and the Burlington established immigration agencies. They had ready at hand an irresistible bait for attracting settlers—namely, cheap land, the land granted them by the Federal and State Governments. Handbills were scattered over the East, and even in Europe, offering this Government-grant land for sale on easy long-time terms, and calling attention to the probability of getting free homesteads.

The bait was taken; immigrants poured into the tavern which the Burlington had built near Lincoln, though disillusionment came quickly enough for many—in the nineties, if not earlier. Still, the country had been settled; and the railroads justly received much of the "credit."

Today the old steam locomotives, with their diamond-shaped smokestacks, exist only in pictures or museums. Over the old pioneer lines pass modern passenger trains or freights. The new stream-lined Diesel-powered train was first represented by the *Zephyr*, now running between Lincoln and Kansas City. During the past 65 years there has been a considerable

increase in railroad mileage over most of the State, although large areas in the northwest are still without railroad facilities. Of the 93 counties in the State, five have no railroads at all; and for every seven county seats having railway service there is one without. The total mileage of the railroads operating in Nebraska in 1937 was 6,199 miles.

Most of Nebraska's State highways are surfaced with gravel, though the mileage of paved roads, if continuous, would extend across the State more than four times. A total of 8,372 miles of highway is marked and maintained by the State highway department. Of this total, 5,899 miles are surfaced with gravel, 2,059 miles are paved, and 414 miles are graded without surfacing. The 2,770 miles which complete the State's system of 11,142 miles are not yet maintained. Of the paved roads, 965 miles are concrete, 882 bituminous mat, and the remainder brick or asphalt.

At the time coaches were traveling the roads, and rails were being laid in Nebraska, private transportation—that is, travel by "family" vehicles—was showing a steady development. After the passing of the ox and prairie schooner came the horse-and-buggy era: the days of the sturdy, hard-riding "democrat wagon;" the family carriage with its polished black trappings and kerosene lamps; the white mail wagon, square and top-heavy, that went lurching over the rural routes; above all, the common one-horse buggy, at its best a dashing rig with red wheels and black top—satisfactory for sky-larking, courting, or simple travel. A few of these buggies and a few surreys have survived. In rainy weather they crawl over wet country roads, and come to a stop in the bystreets of sleepy towns. But their day was really past by the close of the World War, for by then the automobile was becoming popular.

The first automobile in Nebraska made its appearance before 1900; to-day the State has more automobiles and trucks than it has families.

One phase of this growth in motor transportation has been the increasing competition given the railroads by trucks and busses. About two-thirds of the railway mileage in the State is maintained in direct rivalry with passenger busses, and much freight once carried by rail is now transported by truck. The principal results of this rivalry have been the establishment of bus lines by railroad companies and the abandonment, in a few cases, of railroad branches. There are 22 bus lines now operating in Nebraska.

What motors did for travel in the State, telephones had already done for communication. The first telephone in Nebraska was set up in Omaha in 1877 by a telegraph official, L. H. Korty, who spoke through the instrument to another official, J. J. Dickey, in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Numerous private telephone lines strung by these two men preceded the ex-



INITIATION OF ZEPHYR, NOVEMBER 12, 1934

changes later established in Omaha and Lincoln. One problem during the infancy of the telephone was the devising of a satisfactory signaling mechanism. The original method of signaling involved thumping on the transmitter diaphragm with a pencil; later a hand-bell system was worked out which is still in use on rural exchanges. Switchboard tending gave rise to another problem. At first boys were employed as operators, but they proved to be slow, inefficient, and not always courteous; so they were replaced by girls.

When the telephone patents expired in the early nineties, the field was left open to anyone. It came about that some Nebraska towns had two or more rival switchboards, continually at war, with results somewhat disconcerting to subscribers. Conditions are now more stable, with the State's three principal companies, serving two-thirds of the homes in Nebraska, doing business in comparative harmony.

Radio came to Nebraska some forty years later than the telephone. Before the present era of elegant cabinets, many tubes, and foreign reception, neighbors were accustomed to gather about crystal sets, taking turns at headphones, absorbing the mysteries of serial advertising and tapping toes to jig tunes. The first interstate broadcasting was done from Hastings,

Oak, and David City (KFOR). There are now ten radio broadcasting stations in Nebraska, situated in seven towns. KFAB and KFOR, Lincoln; KGFV, Kearney; KGKY, Scottsbluff; KGNE, North Platte, KMMJ, Clay Center; KOIL, Omaha and Council Bluffs; WAAW and WOW, Omaha; and WJAG, Norfolk.

A monitor station is maintained near Grand Island by the United States Government. Before the coming of radio, inhabitants of rural areas had relatively little contact with persons and things outside their own immediate sphere. Today the farmer is in touch with the world.

Transport service planes operating on the midcontinent transcontinental route make four stops in the State—at Omaha, Lincoln, Grand Island, and North Platte, with Omaha as the division terminal. Twelve planes carrying passengers, mail, and express are cleared from this terminal daily, and the service is soon to be increased with the operation of 42-passenger Clipper Ships. Air lines also operate north and south out of Omaha, with scheduled trips to Kansas City and the Twin Cities. They make connection with other lines at Kansas City and St. Paul. Fourteen licensed airports, ten auxiliary landing fields, and six Department of Commerce intermediate fields open all sections of the State to air travel. Along the lighted Federal airways are five radio directional range stations, at Omaha, North Platte, Grand Island, Sidney, and Hayes Center. All State aviation activities are regulated by the Nebraska Aeronautics Commission, with offices in Lincoln.

Ethnic Elements

THOUGH pioneers, native and foreign, drifted into and across Nebraska in the first half of the nineteenth century and the Government established a number of military posts, the Territory had a population of only 2,732 when it was created in 1854. There was no substantial immigration until the passage of the first homestead act, in 1862.

Germans, who are now the largest group of foreign stock in the State (35 percent), were the first immigrants to arrive in any number. Following the 1848 political upheavals in Germany, many fled to America to escape oppression at home. A group of thirty-five, most of them originally from Schleswig-Holstein, left Davenport, Iowa, in 1857, crossed the Missouri at Omaha, reached Columbus—then a German settlement of eighteen cabins—and continued as far as the Wood River. On July 5, the settlement that was to become Grand Island was surveyed and divided among members of the party. In 1866 a group of 124 Germans from Wisconsin arrived at the present site of Norfolk, at that time still unclaimed prairie. Because of the hardships of the first winter, the colony was operated along communal lines, all available supplies being apportioned on the basis of need (*see GRAND ISLAND*).

German settlers have made a significant contribution to the State in developing the sugar-beet industry. The first step was taken in 1887 when Henry A. Koenig, who came from a section of Germany where this industry was well established, started a movement to try out sugar-beet crops in Hall County.

The Bohemian (Czechoslovak) group—now 11 percent of Nebraska's foreign stock—has been understandingly interpreted in Willa Cather's books and thus made known to the country at large. In certain sections a traveler still sees, on storefronts and mail boxes, only Bohemian names such as Srb, Sedlacek, Velinek, Koupel, Rosicky and Shimerda. The first settler was Charles Zulek. Establishing himself in Humboldt in 1856, he had to walk to St. Joseph, Missouri, then the nearest trading post, for provisions and carry them on his back. In 1865 other Bohemians came in small numbers and settled in Cuming, Richardson, and Saline Counties.

Meresa Klotzda made her way on foot from Wisconsin to West Point, driving cattle belonging to her relatives. In the same year Bohemians filed on homesteads near Crete, having walked all the way from Nebraska City following a train loaded with Government supplies.

Most of the early Bohemian immigrants were of the *Chalipník* or "cottager" class, with common-school education; they were first-rate farmers and steady hard-working people. In Bohemia they had known nothing of the isolated farmhouse, but had lived in villages where life was regulated by the opinion of the community. The frontier was a complete change for them and called for courageous adjustment.

In general the Bohemians have remained conservative in politics, lusty, gay, and essentially simple in social life. They love their native music, with its pronounced and unusual rhythm, especially when played by their somewhat martial bands. The Sokol (Czech: *a falcon*), the international gymnastic society founded in Prague in 1862 to develop strength of body, keenness, and courage, was formerly powerful. It is now losing influence in Nebraska, partly because the younger people prefer modern sports. But life centers in the home, where many of the older generation speak only their native language. Czech food is still served—and it is extraordinarily good. But contemporary life, particularly in the schools, is blurring the distinctive national lines.

The first Swedish immigrants, tired from the long trip and the hardships of travel, arrived in Nebraska about 1860. But the Swedes and Danes, who today make up 17 percent of the foreign-origin group, did not settle in the West in large numbers until after the Civil War. During the 1860's news of cheap and fertile land in America came to the Scandinavians from their compatriots in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Farmers, who could acquire land at home only with great difficulty, migrated in such numbers that the Scandinavian Governments were disturbed. (Within twenty years, Norwegian emigration to America was greater in proportion to the home population than that from any other country except Ireland; few, however, came to Nebraska.) The first wave of Swedish immigration to reach the State settled in Kearney in 1865. This was soon followed by settlements which grew up at Oakland, Saronville, Axtell, and Holdrege. These people were capable farmers and lumbermen, persistent and frugal. They were well adapted not only to frontier life but to the climate of their new home.

Danish settlement began at the same time but did not reach its height until about 1880, when substantial settlements had been established. Dana College (originally named Trinity) was founded by the Danes at Blair in

1886. Davey in Lancaster County, and Dannebrog in Howard County were among the first colonies. Dannebrog, together with Dannevirke (founded in 1874) became a large Danish community.

The Danes are agricultural people and have probably done more than any other group to advance progressive farming measures. Familiar with the cooperative idea in their mother country, they have promoted cooperative farm associations and grain elevators, stockshipping associations, and farmers' mutual insurance organizations. They were active in the Farmers' Alliance and similar organizations and are identified today with liberal political groups.

The German-Russians (Russo-Germans) are comparative latecomers to Nebraska. Their history dates back to 1770 when Catherine of Russia told Frederick the Great that she would give free land to German settlers, and exempt them from taxation and military service for a hundred years. While Catherine's law remained in force, life was comparatively easy for the Germans who migrated to Russia. But their prosperity ended with the end of their century of privilege. Burdened with high taxes and military duties, they sent a Reverend Mr. Starkel and two other men to find a suitable place for them in America. Lincoln was chosen and the German-Russians settled there in large numbers.

Only one percent of the present population of Nebraska is Negro. Many emancipated slaves came North after the Civil War, attracted chiefly to Kansas; but when the promised "plenty for all" did not materialize, they moved into Nebraska and other western States. By 1880 the Negro population of Nebraska was 2,395; today it numbers 13,752. It is noteworthy that all but 488 of Nebraska's Negroes are concentrated in Omaha and Lincoln. The Negro has legal equality—since the early 1890's there have been Negro members in the State legislature—but economic equality is largely theoretical. He works chiefly in the lower paid jobs of the railroad and packing industries. The group as a whole is becoming better educated and a number are making their way into the professions and higher wage-earning brackets. Fraternal and other organizations, chief among which is the Urban League, are increasingly active in promoting their social and industrial welfare (*see OMAHA*).

The present population of Nebraska is 1,377,953 (U. S. Census). While only 115,300 are foreign born, nearly 480,000 are of foreign stock: 168,000 German; 52,000 Bohemian; 50,000 Swedish; 33,000 Danish; 31,000 Russian; 23,000 English; 26,000 Irish; and 16,000 Polish.

Nebraska has more people born in other States than any other Midwest State except Kansas—363,000 or 26.8 percent. This seems symptomatic of

the hopefulness that inspired migrations, chiefly rural, from older settled areas. The gradual adaptation to new environment, alterations in attitudes, and even in physical types among the settlers and their descendants would be a fascinating study. For here, as Alexander Porterfield wrote in the *London Mercury*, "Pole and German, Slav and Czech and Anglo-Saxon with their varied and conflicting customs and traditions are being slowly merged into an indigenous whole."



Folklore and Folkways

STORIES belong on the frontier, where story-telling whiles away lonely hours, solves problems, and projects heroic symbols. In this way folk tales—and for that matter folk songs—have double value, as fantasy and as history; in extending life they also reflect ways of living. Nebraska folklore is thus part of the history of the Middle Western frontier. Traditions themselves are migrants and settlers, and have a way of becoming adapted to changing circumstance; but whatever survives of this heritage of fantasy and faith is valid lore of the region to which it has been transplanted.

The very place names of Nebraska have their stories, rooted in local tradition. The most obvious of these names—like Trunk Butte and Saddle Butte—merely suggest the natural formations they label. Others tell of the finding of objects that marked the spot: thousands of buffalo and cattle skeletons at Bone Creek, a relic of an Indian burial at Broken Bow. Still others are mementoes of frontier encounters. At Sowbelly Canyon a rescue party came to the aid of a band of soldiers who had run out of rations while hard-pressed by Indians—even the dry salt bacon, which was all the rescuers had, must have tasted good to the soldiers. At Rawhide Creek a white man from a wagon train was tied to a tree and skinned alive, because he had kept his vow to kill the first Indian he saw. Sowbelly and Rawhide bite the tongue and the imagination. But Weeping Water Creek is one of those specious misnomers that absurdly, if sweetly, testify to the white man's ignorance of the Indian's language. A confusion of two Indian words caused the creek to "weep" instead of "rustle," and gave rise to a sentimental tale: A beautiful Indian maiden was abducted by a rejected suitor while she was bathing in the lake near Weeping Water village. In the bloody fight that followed the pursuit of her captor, all her father's tribesmen were slain, and the women mourning their dead wept a stream of tears.

Certain localities preserve tradition not in their names but in stories attached to the places themselves, and here local history must yield to folklore the more marvelous exploits of frontier heroes and villains. The

shooting of Dave McCanles and his two companions by young William Hickok at Rock Creek Station was thereafter magnified into the "McCanles Massacre" in order to glorify the name of "Wild Bill." North of the Platte was the scene of the nine-months' trek of Hugh Glass after he had been mangled by a grizzly bear and left by his companions to die. Along and beyond the Missouri, Mike Fink spread his reputation as a crack shot and a "ring-tailed roarer"—the hero of the keel boatmen.

On the model of these actual heroes the plainsman, with humorous exaggeration, invented mythical figures who did the business of pioneering as he would like to have done it. The most recent of these, Febold Feboldson, has been popularized largely through the work of Paul R. Beath, who has assembled and edited a collection of Febold tales from material originally published by Wayne Carroll and Don Holmes in the *Independent* and the *Times* of Gothenburg, Nebraska. According to Mr. Beath, "Year by year more and more odds and ends of narrative material have fastened themselves to the Febold legend until to-day his name has become a by-word with people who know of his adventures." (*Nebraska Folklore Pamphlets, Number 5.*) While the scholars worry over the authenticity of Febold, we may enjoy his yarning from the Liars' Bench.

Reminiscent of a long line of tall men from the backwoods, Davy Crockett to the superman Paul Bunyan, Febold "liked a good big job" and, whether it was drought-busting or killing off grasshoppers and coyotes, he was generally equal to the task. It was Febold who laid a straight boundary line between Kansas and Nebraska, after Paul Bunyan with his blue ox, Babe, had failed, ridiculously, by plowing a crooked furrow (now the Republican River). Febold spent fifteen years breeding eagles with bees until he had bees as big as eagles. Then all he had to do was hitch one of his best specimens to a plow, and make a bee-line between the two States. Febold was always good at picking assistants. Before the days of machinery, he used the happy auger (cousin of the dismal sauger) to pinch-hit as a digger of post holes. (This was after red cedar posts had taken the place of the posts Febold furnished by digging post holes in the fall and letting them freeze all winter, then digging them up before the first spring thaw, varnishing them, and stringing them with wire.) The auger, a peculiar animal resembling the kangaroo, had a habit of spinning round on its heavy corkscrew tail every time it sat down, thus screwing the tail several feet into the ground. Febold then would sneak up behind the poor creature and fire a six-shooter, scaring the auger so that it jumped twenty feet into the air and left the prettiest post hole imaginable.

The appeal and the appropriateness of Febold lie in his pioneer in-

genuity and inventiveness—the heritage of the modern business man and politician with whom he has much in common. Realizing that the day of miracles was over and that the land must be conquered by science, Febold finally went off to California to study irrigation and forestry against a second coming—though some say he went to enjoy well-earned peace in his old age.

Antoine Barada, strong man of the Missouri River, played Hercules to the wily Ulysses, Febold. Between them they share legendary honors for brain and brawn. Antoine, unlike Febold, was not one to take his time and figure things out for himself; rather, with the innocence of a child and the restlessness of a tiger, he was apt to lose his patience and discover things quite by accident. That was what happened, for instance, when, tired of watching a pile-driver at work on a 40-foot hitching post for a boat, Antoine picked up the derrick and threw it over into Iowa, and then smote the post with his mighty fist. The post went so deep into the earth that it formed an artesian well that spouted 50 feet into the air, and all in the vicinity surely would have drowned had not Antoine sat upon the hole until every one had rushed to safety.

Historical foundations have been supplied for both the Febold and the Antoine legends. Bergstrom Stromsberg, Febold's nephew and chronicler, has been traced by Paul Beath to Olaf Bergstrom, a Swedish adventurer who led a party of immigrants to America and later disappeared. Antoine had a historical namesake, the son of a Parisian count and an Omaha Indian maiden, who lies buried at the little village of Barada (*see Tour 1*), where tales of the mythical hero are especially persistent. Told at old settlers' picnics, during the midday meal of threshing crews, and around red-hot stoves in wintertime, his superhuman feats in wrestling, throwing, and long-distance jumping suggest the very contests in which his narrators might have engaged. So folk tales embalm not only history but folkways and fantasy.

The trials and triumphs of Nebraska pioneer life are similarly reflected and commented on with humor (but with none of the gags of Febold, which smack of literary comedy) in the homesteader and cowboy songs that are found side by side with the English and Scottish ballads and other Old World pieces (*see MUSIC*). The pioneer, when he needed a song to fit an occasion, was quick to adapt words or tune. "The Little Old Sod Shanty on the Claim," is a parody of the pseudo-Negro song "The Little Old Log Cabin in the Lane," by Will S. Hays (1871), and has been attributed to or claimed by many. In Nebraska, Emery Miller is said to have written it while holding down a claim in the eighties. As in that other

homesteader's complaint (also recovered in Nebraska), "Starving to Death on a Government Claim," the bachelor of the soddy shows true pioneer humor and independence in making the best of a bad deal—leather hinges, paneless windows, howling blizzards, hungry coyotes, and all.

My clothes are plastered o'er with dough, I'm looking like a fright,
And everything is scattered round the room,
But I wouldn't give the freedom that I have out in the West
For the table of the Eastern man's old home.

More loyalty than fortitude is displayed in "The Kinkaid's Song," an idyllic picture of the sandhills dedicated to Moses P. Kinkaid, author of the Homestead Act of 1904, which cut the last of the Nebraska free land into 640-acre sections. "The Kinkaid's Song," still popular at sandhill picnics and reunions, is sung to the tune of "My Maryland" and is in the tradition of State songs—strong on tribute and weak on rhyme.

The corn we raise is our delight,
The melons, too, are out of sight
Potatoes grown are extra fine
And can't be beat in any clime.

The peaceful cows in pastures dream
And furnish us with golden cream.
So I shall keep my Kinkaid home
And never far away shall roam.

In parodies, however, the sandhiller spared neither truth nor feelings.

I've reached the land of drouth and heat,
Where nothing grows for man to eat.
For wind that blows with burning heat,
Nebraska land is hard to beat.

* * *

Al Reneau was a ranchman's name,
Skinning Kinkaiders was his game,
First mortgages only, at a high per cent,
Jew you down on your cattle to the last red cent.

The last word in and of grim realism is the rhyme carved on the door of a deserted shack in the dry-land table near Chadron in the nineties, as recorded by Mari Sandoz in *Old Jules* (1935):

30 miles to water
20 miles to wood
10 miles to hell
And I gone there for good.

Hell, as painted by a "sky pilot" at a sandhill revival, is described by the same author in "Sandhill Sundays" (*Folk-Say, A Regional Miscellany*:

1931)—in terms of the same waterless and treeless land familiar to sand-hill sinners.

You see them heat waves out there on the prairie? Them's the fires of hell, licking round your feet, burning your feet, burning your faces red as raw meat, drying up your crops, drawing the water out of your wells! You see them thunderheads, shining like mansions in the sky but spurning fire and shaking the ground under your feet? God is mad, mad as hell!

In the sandhill country, where the going was tougher, leaner, and lonelier, and the folklore tougher, fatter, and more plentiful, history may be retraced in the amusements of the people. The "nesters" gradually supplemented revivals with husking-bees, feather-stripping parties, socials, sings, masquerades, literaries, and dances. The literary programs in the schoolhouses featured spell-downs, songs ("Love is Such a Funny, Funny Thing," "Oh, Bury Me Not on the Lone Prairie"), recitations ("The Deacon's Courtship," "The Face on the Barroom Floor,"), and debates on such questions as Popular Elections of Our Presidents, the British Colonial Policy ("Resolved, that the Irish should be free,") and ("Resolved, that Grant was a great butcher instead of a great general"). People came to the dances from as far as forty miles away in wagons or on horseback, in response to some such invitation as the following inserted in the news columns of the community paper:

Party and dance at Cravath's December 2. Dinner from one to seven.
Beds and breakfasts for all. Everybody come.

After the midnight snack of coffee and ham sandwiches, there might be a "chapping" match, in which two swains drew lots and took turns whacking each other with half of a horsebacker's leather chaps (unlaced to allow the two legs to fall apart), the victor being rewarded with the pick of a girl, if he had none.

With the sheepmen came coyote hunts, to round up the sheep killers. The chase was perhaps less important than the big dinner which followed, on long boards over barrels in the barn. Later the Kinkaiders, many of them Easterners, brought in Sunday schools and ladies' aids; and those who had "Methodist feet," or religious objections to dancing, skipped, instead, at play-parties or bounce-arounds, to the vigorously rhythmic words and tunes such as "Skip to My Lou," "Three Little Girls Went Skating on the Ice," "Old Brass Wagon." They also ran foot races and played charades, guessing games, and children's games—Pussy Wants a Corner, Drop the Handkerchief, and All the Ones in Free. With the railroads came the

combination farmer and stockman; sandhill Sundays were ranch Sundays; and the corral was the scene of informal rodeos or scratching matches, in which cowpunchers showed off before the girls by scratching (roweling or raking with the spurs) horses that were sullen and refused to pitch.

Just before the coming of the automobile, old settlers and their children were distinguished from newer settlers by annual barbecues given in their honor. After the huge dinner (served on tables made of salt barrels and planks covered with white cloths) there were contests for all—fat men's, sack, three-legged, potato, and peanut races, a wagon race for the women and, for the young cowpunchers, bucking broncho contests and wild cow, wild mule, and surcingle races.

Today modern dances have not entirely displaced the shindigs, play parties, sociables, box suppers, and community fish fries. The old cooperative entertainments also survive, in somewhat commercialized form, in the many local and seasonal festivals held annually over the State. Old-timers' reunions compete with carnival features in the King Korn carnival at Plattsmouth, the Friendly Festival at Hay Springs, the Panhandle Stampede at Alliance, the Oregon Trail Days at Gering, and the Winnebago Indian and Massacre Canyon Pow-wows at Winnebago and Trenton.

In some localities national groups have endeavored to preserve Old-World customs and traditions in such community observances as Omaha's Bohemian "Grape Harvest," the Italian Festival of Santa Lucia (*see OMAHA*), and the widespread German *Sängerfest* (*see MUSIC*). But community expression is not limited to holiday celebrations or to dancing, singing, and playing together; it is found also, in rural districts, in such kindly workaday customs as husking corn, plowing for a sick neighbor, and bringing gifts of food to a house in which there has been a death.

The life of the individual is further colored by traditional belief and inherited idiom. Local influence is less palpable however, in the proverbial signs and prophecies, concerning weather, crops, cures, character, love and marriage, wishes and dreams. These belong rather to the universal lore of superstition, which is circulated with varying degrees of faith and skepticism. The most interesting folk beliefs have practical relation to farm life, such as the use of plants and animals in portents and remedies. For example, a severe winter is predicted by the thickness of corn husks, of the fur coats of animals, or of the houses built by muskrats. To cure warts, "Walk in the woods until you find the bone of an animal, rub the bone carefully over the wart with the side which was next to the ground, then dig a hole in the ground and bury the bone. When it decays, the wart will be gone." Other remedies of local interest are those of reputed Indian

origin, such as the Pawnee wash for inflamed eyes made from the root of wild roses and the Pawnee salve for burns made from the pulverized root of the cattail plant.

A stronger local color and regional flavor adhere to speech, especially to sandhill talk and Nebraska pioneer English. Through the terms and phrases that have come in with successive waves of migration, the history of Nebraska settlement may be traced. Fur-traders, trappers, hunters, boatmen, soldiers, Indians, pioneers, buffalo hunters, railroaders, settlers, speculators, squatters, homesteaders and townspeople not only opened and built up a new country but also developed a new language—a lingo of the river, the fort, the post, the trail, the farm, and the ranch. These linguistic deposits form an invaluable record of the land and the people—their food, clothes, dwellings, household articles, tools, implements, transportation, trading, and social customs. Peculiarly expressive are the terms describing the sandhill region: blow-out (hollow), white-cap (a high hill scarred with blow-outs), choppies or chop-hills (billows of hills mostly bare of grass), dune-sand (unfit for cultivation), hogback and turtleback (hills or ridges suggesting these forms), nigger-wool sod, and howler (the terrific wind that brings blizzards). And eloquent of the life of the sandhill are: Kinkaid (settler under the act of 1904), to kinkaid, a kinkaid (640 acres), Texas gate (several bands of wire stapled to sticks attached by wire loops to the fence posts), to juice or pail a cow, cream day (Saturday, when cream and eggs are taken to the store), hangout (inland store or post office), on pump (buying necessities at the store on credit), hay burner (a boiler-like heating contrivance stuffed with twisted hay and turned face down on the open stove), bible (mail order catalog), groan box (organ), grub-line rider (a bachelor or widower who "makes" a good cook's home just before mealtime to get a free meal), schoolmarm chasers (eligible young men interested in teachers), and catalog woman (a wife obtained through a matrimonial bureau).

Tradition touches the lives of Nebraska folk lightly, with a guiding rather than a restraining hand—guiding them wisely and wittily into a future that has its roots in the past.

With the close of the harvest season and its dawn-to-dark labor, the farmer is free to indulge his repressed yearning for the sportsman's life. Frosty mornings, when the newly risen sun slants across the silvered stubble, find the farmer afield with gun and dog, watching alertly for the white flash of the cottontail. A China pheasant cock, rising with a raucous cry of alarm, spreads gorgeous wings and sails majestically toward safety; but the gun cracks and the noble bird drops in mid-flight to the brown

fields below. At such moments the modern husbandman reverts in spirit to his forebears, the pioneer hunters of the virgin prairies.

In small communities, especially, a good deal of recreational activity has been weakened somewhat in late years by the radio, the movies, and the ease of getting into an automobile and driving to other towns. But it still remains for the schools to supply about the only stage entertainment that the average farmer or small-towner sees from one year's end to another—the junior and senior class plays—and the school picnic usually held on the last day before vacation is a scrambled hilarious affair for parents and pupils both, leaving the school grounds littered with no end of paper plates, sandwich crusts, bits of deviled eggs, and other scraps.

The church supper, held once or twice a year with most congregations as a means of raising money, might not be much of an event for city-dwellers accustomed to eating out; but for rural people it is something of a treat to get together in a crowded basement, exchange gossip, inhale the inevitable smell of coffee, and choose their dinner from two or three tables loaded down with all kinds of food. The election dinner is much the same kind of festivity; usually given by the ladies' aid or some other society in the town hall or church on the evening of election day. The annual church picnic, generally held on a hot late-summer day, provides many hard-working Nebraskans with one of their few chances to get to a park where there are trees, maybe to go swimming if there is a pool, and to take part in the races or ball games that are ordinarily on the program.

Rodeos held in various parts of the State when local finances allow (as in North Platte or Burwell) still attract good crowds. Purses, if high enough, draw excellent riders from all over the West. When Indians furnish part of the entertainment—generally with dances and ceremonials—the smell of dried meat hung out on lines in their camp is pungent and unforgettable.

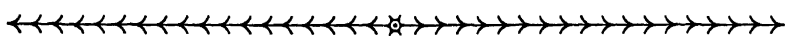
Medicine shows do not travel about as often as they used to, but now and then one comes along, sets up a tent at the edge of town, and entertains the citizenry with farce and robustious burlesque, the gags adapted to local consumption. Candy or cure-all remedies are sold between acts, and cumulative interest during the run is stimulated by some sort of popularity contest ("Buy *one* bottle of Pinkney's Liniment—and it's *ten* votes for your best girl . . .").

Football in Nebraska is more than a diversion for college students. A State university game is an event talked about and eagerly followed by rural and urban fans. If the day of a football game is not too cold or

rainy, the streets of Lincoln are sure to be jammed with people and cars, brightened with pennants and chrysanthemums. The highways are crowded for miles around. Broadcasts of games are picked up in almost every store and gas station from Omaha to the western border; farmers sometimes neglect their cornhusking in the afternoon to hear the game over the radio.

Some form of community recreation is generally provided in the course of the year by town businessmen who often promote an annual Homecoming Day—supposedly an occasion for all native sons in the outside world to visit the home town. A common feature of Homecoming Day is the carnival on Main Street with its ferris wheel, merry-go-round, gambling stands, sideshows advertising the biggest snake in the world, and the like. There are usually races, a ball game, speeches and "readings" delivered from an improvised platform; church members sell ice cream and cake and lemonade from stands or in "Japanese Gardens"; and the town is in a furore from early morning to late at night.

Business men are responsible, too, for the weekly free movies that in late years have become so important a part of community life in the summer. One evening a week a traveling operator is hired to put on a full bill in the open air. The screen is set fairly high, so that people who drive in from the country can see the show from automobiles parked behind the rows of wooden benches. Crowds as a rule are enormous; the streets are lined with cars; the spectators, many of them tired from their day in the fields, sit quiet and attentive while the film plot unfolds its tale of danger or romance. Before or after the show, people do their trading in the stores; between reels they talk, dodge the wads of grass that children throw at one another, and watch for falling stars.



Education and Religion

THE pioneer missionaries among the Pawnee and Oto Indians were also the first teachers in early Nebraska, as in other frontier sections. Moses Merrill, a Baptist, preached Nebraska's first sermon at Bellevue in 1833; in the following year the Reverend Samuel Allis arrived to work among the Pawnee for the next ten years. By 1837 the Baptists had established a mission school on Blackbird Hill for the Omaha, and in the following year Father Pierre Jean de Smet began his thirty years of service as a missionary to the Indians of the Platte and Upper Missouri Valleys. These men taught the Indians Christian theology, farming, and the rudiments of elementary education.

Education

White people were few in number prior to 1854 because of Federal restrictions, but a school had been established at Fort Atkinson (military post and first Nebraska town) as early as 1820, and the first school for white children outside of the fort was opened at Bellevue in 1849. Other schools were set up here and there through the sparsely settled country in cabins and dugout. Teachers were paid their small wages by the parents, and the youngsters bent over the few available books—McGuffey's readers, Roy's and Webster's arithmetics, and dog-eared spellers.

The first Territorial Legislature in 1855 enacted a free school law, providing for school districts and school boards. Teachers were examined by the school boards, and amusing stories are told of these examinations. After 1869 when a change was made in the law, elected county superintendents examined the teachers. The Territorial librarian served as superintendent of education. Plans were also made for high schools and colleges. The former, however, were not free, and what little secondary education existed was confined to the cities in the eastern part of the State and financed privately and locally.

During the first Territorial decade, 1854-64, the legislature showed great enthusiasm for chartering colleges which, for the most part, existed

only on paper. Nemaha University at Archer, one of the so-called "paper colleges," never materialized because the town itself disappeared. Nebraska University at Fontanelle, Simpson College at Omaha, Brownville College at Brownville, existed for only a short time. More fortunate was the Peru Seminary and College, which was chartered in 1860 and is still a State teachers' college. In 1864 the Territorial legislature set stricter standards for founding colleges.

The Enabling Act, passed by the National Congress in the same year, carried provisions for liberal grants to encourage education in the new State. These included absolute grants of the sixteenth and thirty-sixth sections in every township for the support of common schools, and seventy-two sections for the use and support of a State university. Five percent of the proceeds of all sales by the National Government of land within the State (minus incidental expenses) was set aside to defray the expenses of common schools. Approximately 1,600,000 acres of this school land still remain and are now owned by the State. Its sale is prohibited by a law enacted in 1897, except for school, church, and cemetery purposes. The first State legislature (1867) made Lincoln the capital of Nebraska, and authorized the establishment of a State university in that city. Twelve acres of land and \$100,000 were set aside, and the cornerstone of the first building was laid in 1869.

The present educational system—embracing elementary and high schools, colleges, and institutions for groups requiring special training—has grown from these beginnings. A measure of its effectiveness may be seen in Nebraska's literacy rating which is equalled by that of only three States and excelled by only three.

The elementary school system is thorough and comprehensive. The public primary schools take care of 192,000 children, approximately 98 percent of the children between the ages of seven and thirteen, while 22,500 pupils are enrolled in private and parochial primary schools. The rural school system functions through 6,040 school districts. The one-room, one-teacher "country schools" are still common, but the trend is toward consolidated schools with bus transportation for pupils. More than 220 busses are now in use, carrying the children to and from the 59 consolidated schools and 26 rural high schools.

High schools were not free until 1875, when the State constitution included them in the public school system. Thereafter they developed rapidly, especially in the last decade of the nineteenth century. Today the State has approximately a thousand high schools, of which 750 are public, and the remainder either parochial or private.

The University of Nebraska opened in 1871 in a single building, with a chancellor, a faculty of four, and twenty students. Today it includes ten colleges: arts and sciences, graduate, engineering, law, teachers, pharmacy, business administration, and dentistry at Lincoln; agriculture on a separate campus nearby; and medicine at Omaha. Connected with the College of Agriculture are experiment substations at North Platte, Mitchell, Valentine, and Alliance; the fruit farm at Union; the State serum plant at Lincoln; and a secondary school at Curtis. The total student enrollment for the university (1935-36) was 11,000, with a faculty of approximately 325.

The State has a well distributed system of modern library facilities. The Nebraska Public Library Commission, with headquarters in the Capitol at Lincoln, circulates books to every part of the State, supplementing local library service. The State Library, which has been developed chiefly as a law library, is considered one of the best of its kind in the country. Public libraries are maintained in the larger towns and cities. A recent study shows that 63 percent of the schools in 79 of the 93 counties also have libraries.

Teachers are trained at the four State normal colleges at Peru, Chadron, Wayne, and Kearney. The following institutions provide education and care for special groups: The Nebraska Institution for Feeble-minded at Beatrice, the Nebraska School for the Blind at Nebraska City, the Nebraska School for the Deaf at Omaha, the Girl's Training School at Geneva, the State Industrial School at Kearney, the Nebraska Home for Dependent Children at Lincoln, and the Orthopedic Hospital at Lincoln.

Chief among the seventeen denominational colleges, in alphabetical order, are: Concordia College (Lutheran), Seward; Creighton University (Roman Catholic), Omaha; Doane College at Crete (under both Congregational and Protestant Episcopal control); Hastings College (Presbyterian), Hastings; Hebron College and Academy (both Lutheran); Luther College at Wahoo; Midland College (Lutheran), Fremont; Nebraska Wesleyan University (Methodist), Lincoln; Nebraska Central College maintained by the Society of Friends, Central City; Union College at Lincoln (Seventh Day Adventist); and York College (United Brethren).

Religion

Nebraska's religious history began when Moses Merrill, a Baptist minister, preached the first sermon in Bellevue in 1833. He was authorized by the Baptist board to build a "dwelling house and a school," the cost to

be \$500. The missionary priest, Father de Smet, and ministers of other faiths (as has been noted) also came during the 1830's primarily to teach the Indians. But during the years immediately following the opening of the Nebraska Territory (1854), the chief denominations began to establish churches among the white settlers.

For a time missionary zeal charted the course of religious history, but it was mainly influenced by immigration, since racial and national groups in general maintained their native religious affiliations. The first missionaries in Nebraska were Baptist, Congregational, Presbyterian, and Catholic, all arriving in the period between 1833 and 1840.

The largest single church group is the Roman Catholic with a membership of 154,889. Next in membership are the Lutheran with 121,916 and the Methodist Episcopal Church with 92,820. Total membership of all other Protestant groups is 406,664. This comprises the Presbyterian, 33,343; Disciples of Christ, 26,182; Congregationalist, 20,977; Northern Baptist, 19,145; Protestant Episcopal, 12,726; and all other denominations (including the Jewish), 79,555. Thus Nebraska's total church membership is 561,553.

The first Catholic Mass was celebrated in Omaha in May 1855 by a priest from Saint Joseph, Missouri. Two years later Nebraska was designated as a separate apostolic vicarate. When the first vicar, the Right Reverend James O'Gorman, was consecrated in Omaha on May 8, 1859, he found only two clergymen in the territory, serving three hundred families along the eastern river towns. Growth was quick, however, and four years later the Catholic population numbered about 7,000, including Indians. Catholic organization of the region south of the Platte River kept pace. The first Mass in Lincoln was celebrated at the home of Blacksmith John Daly in 1867. In that year Gov. David Butler gave three lots at Thirteenth and M Streets for the erection of the first Catholic church in the city. When the Burlington Railroad built its right of way westward in 1871, the Reverend William Kelly of Lincoln followed the construction gangs, which included many Catholics. By 1887 the South Platte region had been made into an independent diocese. Many Catholic groups came to Omaha and farther West into Nebraska at this time, and special impetus was given to the Church's growth by the Irish Catholics who settled in Greeley County in 1879.

Pioneer work for the Lutheran faith began when the Reverend H. W. Kuhn, Trinity Lutheran missionary, came West from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1858 and preached the first Lutheran sermon in the front room of the Bates House, Dakota City, in November of that year. At about the

same time, the Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, now known as the Kountze Memorial Church, was organized in Omaha, and the First German Lutheran Church was established at Fontanelle. Thereafter, Lutheranism grew steadily and spread throughout the State. Various synods as well as small schools and colleges were organized. The wave of German immigration in the early 1870's further strengthened the Lutheran Church. Today it includes most of the State's Scandinavian population, particularly the Swedish colonies at Stromsburg, Wausa, Oakland, and Newman Grove, and the Danish in Howard County. The Lutheran Church in Dakota City claims the distinction of being the oldest church building still in use in the State. It was erected in 1860.

Methodism was brought to Nebraska in the 1850's and its growth was due in large part to the energetic work of its early ministers. Unlike Catholicism and Lutheranism, its membership was not augmented by large immigrant groups. The Reverend W. H. Good of Indiana, who was sent to Nebraska by his Church to report on topography and population in 1854, found about five hundred families and was appointed presiding elder of the Nebraska district. In December of the same year the first quarterly meeting of the Church was held in the Old Fort Kearney Hotel in Nebraska City, and the Reverend W. D. Gage (for whom Gage County was named) came there to live. The Reverend Hiram Burch, who succeeded Gage, is credited with having directed the building of the State's first Methodist church at Nebraska City, in 1856.

The Reverend Edward McKinney, representing the Presbyterian board, came to Nebraska in 1846, built a mission house, and began work among the Omaha and Oto. The first Presbyterian church, organized in 1855 by the Reverend William Hamilton, was built the following year. In Nebraska, as elsewhere, the Presbyterians divided into the New School and Old School Assemblies, but reunion was effected in 1870 and Nebraska, Wyoming, Montana, and Utah became part of the Missouri River Synod. Later, Nebraska was made a separate synod.

The first representative of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to reach Nebraska was the Reverend Foster, who preached a sermon on the North Platte near the present site of Ogalalla on June 15, 1845. Richard Brown and Joel M. Wood founded Brownville in 1854 and organized the first Christian church in the following year.

In 1834 the first Congregational missionaries (sent by the American Board) came to Nebraska. They were Rev. John Dunbar, Rev. Samuel Allis, and their wives. Rev. Reuben Gaylord, who came to Omaha in 1854,

established the first Congregational churches in the State. He is called "The Father of Congregationalism in Nebraska."

The Baptist Church was organized in Nebraska City in August 1855 with 22 members, but there had been Baptist ministers in Nebraska for twenty years before that time. The denomination has in its later years taken an active part in the temperance movement, seeking to suppress the manufacture, sale, and use of alcoholic drinks. Most of the State's Negro population are Baptists or Methodists. In some cases whole congregations came from the South and either brought their own pastors with them or sent for them later; frequently the order was reversed, the pastor blazing the trail and often serving as agent in securing work for his people before they arrived. The main impetus to Negro church organization was from the Negroes who came to Nebraska during the World War period.

The Mormons do not live in separate colonies in the State today, but during the years of their migration to Utah, they contributed a unique chapter to the religious story. In 1846 about 12,000 Mormons camped temporarily in the Missouri River Valley. One of their settlements, called "Winter Quarters"—at the present site of Florence, a suburb of Omaha—was partially financed by Mormon soldiers who had served in the Mexican War. From this base "the pioneer company" moved to the Mormon rendezvous on the Elkhorn and from there, under the leadership of Brigham Young, made the long trek to the valley of the Great Salt Lake. In 1847 the Mormons on the west side of the Missouri River were ordered to leave because the Indians complained that they used up too much game and timber. Many of them did not join the march to Utah but founded settlements in Niobrara, Genoa, and elsewhere. For a time they maintained their separate identity.

Many other denominations and sects of varying size take their place in Nebraska's religious picture. The Seventh Day Adventists, the Protestant Episcopalians, the Mennonites, and the Quakers maintain churches and colleges, and there are also some Unitarian, Christian Scientist, and Jewish congregations.

Paralleling the general trend found in racial and national groups, the religious denominations are working together in harmony and in some instances combining for worship under the same roof. A growing tolerance is uniting members of different denominations in their efforts for social betterment.

Art and Music

ART in Nebraska has had a swift and eccentric development—from tepee murals to surrealist painting in little more than a hundred years—owing to the rapidity of change in the State's economic and social life.

At the beginning of the State's history the only art was Indian—carved rocks, decorated calumets and weapons, pictures on tepees, buckskin ornamented with painted porcupine quills, and beaded fabrics. The art of the Indians, however, had little bearing on the later cultural development of the State, but the life and environment of the Indians themselves furnished subject matter for numerous artist-adventurers who went among the tribes with canvases and sketchbooks.

The first white painter in Nebraska was Samuel Seymour, official artist with Maj. Stephen H. Long's expedition. At Engineer Cantonment in 1819 he produced many pictures of councils held with the Oto and the Pawnee, and numerous sketches of animals and landscapes.

An artist more prolific and more renowned than Seymour was George Catlin, sympathetic observer of Indian life, who went up the Missouri River in 1832 and returned in 1833. During that time he made pictures of Nebraska scenes, and portraits and drawings of Nebraska's Pawnee, Omaha, Oto, and Ponca Indians. Typical examples from the Smithsonian Institution's Catlin Collection, Washington, D. C., are *Blackbird's Grave*, *Bellevue*, and *Mouth of the Platte River*. Karl Bodmer, Swiss contemporary of Catlin, accompanied Prince Maximilian von Wied-Neuwied on his exploring party up the Missouri in 1833 and painted such Nebraska scenes as *Belle Vue*, *Major Daugherty's Post*, the *Steamer Yellowstone on April 19, 1833*, and *Tents of the Poncas on the Banks of the Missouri*.

After 1833 art remained more or less dormant until given new impetus in 1854 by Stanislas W. Y. Schimonsky and George Simons, artists who concerned themselves not only with Indians but also with characteristic views of frontier trading posts, steamboat landings, claim cabins, and mission buildings. This was the period of romantic landscape and genre painting in American art. The industrial seaboard was looking to the West

for expansion, and American culture was dominated by this impulse. During the years 1854-59 numerous artists were sent out by eastern publishing houses and railroad companies with instructions to paint flattering pictures of the West, in order to attract prospective immigrants. Many of these men proved to be able craftsmen.

In the years following 1853 the confusion of homesteading and State-making left little time for artistic creation. Domestic arts were mostly crude and strictly utilitarian. Home-made chairs were at best three-legged stools, and at worst, nail kegs slightly remodeled. Tables were hewn of cottonwood or simply made from drygoods boxes. Dippers and other utensils were made by working on solid blocks of wood with a gouge. Pails and small tubs called piggins and noggens were made of staves at home. Scrubbing brooms were often made by cutting the lower end of a hickory pole to splinters; better brooms were fashioned of broom corn. Housewives practiced the finer domestic arts—the making of quilts, hats, and yarn-and-cardboard mottoes to hang on the wall; spinning the woolen cloth that was later dyed and made into garments; weaving rag rugs to spread over the mats of prairie hay on sod-house floors.

The only artist of any consequence during the early years of statehood was Yosette La Flesche Tibbles, an Omaha Indian born at Bellevue in 1854. Mrs. Tibbles produced many paintings and also illustrated in color a book printed in 1898: *Oo-Mah-Ha Ta-Wa-Tha*, by Fannie Reed Giffen. These illustrations are said to be the first artistic work ever published by an American Indian.

As the pioneer quality of life faded and the State grew to resemble older and more settled communities, Nebraskans turned their attention to cultural self-improvement. In 1877 the State university offered instruction in "vocal and instrumental music, and in freehand drawing and painting in all its branches—portrait, landscape, and frescoing—either in water color or oils." The university school of fine arts, which was established eight years later, was reorganized in 1912 to include music and drama as well as painting. Under the management of Paul Grumann, who succeeded the painter Sarah Hayden as director, enrollment grew steadily in the next eighteen years. Since 1932 the department of fine arts, headed by Dwight Kirsch, has been an important center for art students and artists. Morrill Hall houses the permanent art collection of the university—largely assembled through the efforts of Grumann—and occasionally displays traveling exhibitions (*see LINCOLN*).

In 1930 the Municipal University of Omaha established a department of painting, design, and the theory of art. Headed by Bertha Koch, the

department has acquired a good collection of books on art. It also arranges occasional exhibitions.

The State's outstanding art collection is housed in the beautiful Joslyn Memorial at Omaha, which was erected in 1931 to serve as a cultural center. The Chappell Memorial Library and Art Gallery, at Chappell, built in 1935, houses an important collection.

Several organizations encourage the development of collections and the practice of painting and other forms of art: the Nebraska Art Association, organized in 1888 (*see LINCOLN*), the Omaha Art Guild (1911), the Lincoln Artists' Guild (1920), the Omaha Artists' Society (1925), the Omaha Friends of Art, and the Society of Liberal Arts which is in charge of the Joslyn Memorial. Numerous women's clubs in the State have shown an active interest in art.

J. Laurie Wallace of Omaha has contributed to contemporary painting both as a portraitist and as a teacher. His portrait of William Jennings Bryan hangs in Morrill Hall. Two of his pupils, Lenore Benolken and Francis Martin, have done notable portrait work. Robert Gilder, a Nebraskan, is well known as a painter of the Missouri River landscape. Augustus Dunbier, trained in Germany, has painted extensively in the Taos region of the Southwest. Other Omaha artists are Ruth Tompsett, Mrs. Stanley Dabies, and John Sherman. Lyman Bvxbe, etcher, was an Omaha resident for many years.

Among Lincoln artists, Elizabeth Dolan is best known for her murals in the State capitol and in the Nebraska State Museum in Morrill Hall; Kady B. Faulkner for her painting *Dust Bowl*, exhibited in 1937 at Rockefeller Center in New York City, and for her unusual use of color; Morris Gordon for his *Winter 1934*, shown at the Chicago Art Institute in 1937; and Dwight Kirsch for his paintings of abstractions, sandhull landscapes, back yard scenes, and still lifes. Kirsch's *Aries*, a tempera painting shown at Rockefeller Center in 1936, was bought by the Nebraska Art Association for its permanent collection. Martha Turner, Gladys Lux, and Louise Mundy also work in Lincoln.

Several significant contemporary artists are former residents of Nebraska. Lawton L. Parker, the portrait painter, who distinguished himself at the University of Nebraska, is now living in France. Dale Nichols, a painter born in David City, has lectured and written extensively on his own theory of aesthetics. Elizabeth Olds of Omaha, recipient of a Guggenheim award, is a lithographer known for her studies of the unemployed, of "reliefers" waiting in line, and of the life of the dispossessed. One of her lithographs, *Burlesque*, appeared in the book, *American Stuff*, an an-

thology of work done by members of the Federal Writers and Art Projects. Grant Reynard, whose home was in Grand Island, is known for his etchings, lithographs, and watercolors. Robert Spencer (1879-1931), landscape painter, was born in Nebraska.

Probably the best known cartoonist in Nebraska was Clare Briggs, whose drawings first appeared in the Lincoln *Evening News* while he attended college. Herbert Johnson, another cartoonist, was his classmate. "With five cartoonists from one corner of it," wrote Johnson, commenting on Briggs, Rollin Kirby, John Cassel, Hy Gage, and himself, "the Cornhusker State must have much on its artistic, or inartistic, conscience to answer for."

The sculptural decorations in the State capitol were designed by Lee Lawrie. The mural decorations and mosaics are the work mainly of Hildreth Meiere and Augustus Tack. Solon and Gutzon Borglum, sculptors, spent several years in the State. Daniel C. French is represented by his well-known statue of Lincoln at the west approach to the State capitol. Ellis Burman, a young sculptor of the Federal Art Project of the WPA, has created several noteworthy pieces, including the *War Memorial* and *Smoke Signal*, both in Lincoln. Three murals are being executed in Nebraska post offices under commission of the Procurement Division of the Treasury Department: *Threshing*, by Ethel Lagathan at Auburn; *Military Post and the Overland Trail*, by William Bunn at Minden; and *Baling Hay in Holt County in the Early Days*, by Eugene Trenthan at O'Neill.

Music

Primitive music has had no marked effect on the development of music in the State, but a number of composers have used Indian themes in their work and many adaptations of Indian music have been published. The earliest of these was Miss Alice C. Fletcher's *A Study of Omaha Music* (1893). Recalling her first experience in listening to Indian music, she writes "The sound was distressing, and my interest in this music was not aroused until I perceived that this distress was peculiarly my own, everyone else was so enjoying himself (I was the only one of my race present) that I felt sure something was eluding my ears; it was not rational that human beings should scream for hours, looking and acting as did these Indians before me, and the sounds they made not mean something more than mere noise."

Recent ethnological studies—particularly of the Pawnee, Omaha, Sioux, Winnebago, and Arapaho—show that the greater number of Indian songs

were invocations to the host of spiritual powers who were believed to control natural forces, and were designed to secure supernatural aid. According to Frances Densmore, who has made extensive studies of Indian songs, "the Indians used song as a means of accomplishing definite results." The dignified tribal chants in the Omaha ceremonies concerned with various stages of childhood were designed to bring blessings to the children. The great Pawnee Hako Ceremony, lasting for several days, had as its object amity between neighboring bands. Its spirit was one of peace and goodwill among men.

Strangest, perhaps, among the collections of Indian music are the songs dating from the period of the Ghost Dance Religion, when a mystical frenzy of hope and exaltation spread like wildfire among the despairing Plains tribes. Among the Sioux, the Arapaho and others, the symbols were the same—the lightning and the whirlwind, symbolizing the hoped-for great change and redemption of the defeated tribes; the antelope and the green shoots of spring, expressing the rebirth of Indian culture.

In the main, dance and song with the Indians were part of a single act, accented by the complex and subtle rhythms of drums and rattles. The performers danced their songs or sang their dances. There were, however, a number of work songs, war songs and others without dance accompaniment. Though the melodic structure of Indian songs is different from that of European music, it is generally highly developed in its fixed patterns.

Almost every activity, feeling and relationship found expression in the song-dance; the poignancy of personal loss, triumph in war, satisfaction in food and the benefits bestowed by the omnipresent powers, love of children, courtship, invocations to the colors and objects of the boundless prairies.

The white man's music first came to Nebraska with the early explorers; popular tunes from the eastern seaboard, arias from current operas, and ballads and songs from the Old World. At community gatherings of a later period, immigrants sang to the music of fiddle, mouth-organ, and accordion, and danced to some popular call—

Oh swing that gal, that pretty little gal,
The gal that stands behind you,
And balance too and pass right through
And swing with the gal behind you.

In 1854 a piano arrived at Peter Sarpy's home in Bellevue. This instrument, now displayed by the State Historical Society, was used for many years by a niece of the trader-merchant to the wonderment of curious In-

dians, who often listened at the windows. That year, the editor of the *Nebraska Palladium* made mention of a serenade "by male sex . . . both vocal and instrument." In the following year, a solitary fiddler from Council Bluffs furnished the music for Territorial Governor Izard's executive ball. More prolific in musical expression were the German settlers farther up the Missouri. As early as 1856 their theater at Florence presented Schiller's *Robbers*. A year later, they had a singing society and a brass band. The German *Sängerfests*, spreading from Omaha to Lincoln, Grand Island, Deshler, Columbus, and other points, have remained popular ever since; the brass bands are a common feature of small town public life.

Cowhands drifting into the State in early days brought songs with them and created others, many of them melancholy—songs of hard travel, of cowboys dying away from home or wanting to go back to old someplace-or-other. Some of the cowboys' memories of travel are pleasant:

I've worked down in Nebraska
Where the grass grows ten feet high,
And the cattle are such rustlers
That they seldom ever die;
I've worked up in the sand hills
And down upon the Platte
Where the cowboys are good fellows
And the cattle always fat.

Some of the "cowboy" songs that are currently sung in Nebraska were written expressly for radio, but most of them are genuine folk songs or follow the tradition—melancholy ballads, work songs addressed to the herd—

Whoopee, ti-yi-yo! Git along little dogies!
It's your misfortune and none of my own!
Whoopee, ti-yi-yo! Git along little dogies!
For you know Wyoming will be your new home!

Musical activities in Nebraska's capital did not begin until the late sixties. Public concerts, choir singing, and individual enthusiasm led to the establishment of a music store in Lincoln in 1869. Four years later the city had an orchestra and a string quartet. A symphony orchestra was organized at Grand Island in the early seventies; concerts were given in the Liederkrantz Hall. The old singing school has its modern counterpart in Lincoln's well-known Great Cathedral Choir, in the choral groups at Blair's Dana College and Fremont's Midland, and in glee clubs throughout the State. Doane College at Crete, Nebraska Wesleyan, and Hastings Col-

lege maintain a *cappella* assemblies; the University of Nebraska has an orchestra, band, and numerous vocal organizations. Music in Nebraska reaches its highest level of performance in the symphonic orchestras of Omaha and Lincoln, which give concerts during the winter season.

Recognizing the interest of young people in music, the State university has conducted a summer camp for high school musicians, with four weeks of intensive training in chorus, band, and orchestra. A few years ago, the Lincoln High School Symphony Orchestra won a national championship. An important event in scholastic circles is the State high school music contest, held in Lincoln in May. The M-I-N-K (Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas) contest is held in February at Peru, Nebraska. The Mudecas contests, once a combination of music, declamation, and athletic meets, but now devoted only to music, are held in a number of southeastern Nebraska towns in the spring. Festivals have replaced some of the interscholastic contests. At district and county events in the spring the schools unite in giving performances, and the State normal schools also hold festivals. For two days in the spring, the Sodbusters in Holdrege present a songfest with orchestral concerts.

Two composers who have attained prominence are Howard Hanson, born in Nebraska, now director of the Eastman School of Music, and Thurlow Lieurance, former Nebraska resident, many of whose compositions are based on Indian themes. Other Nebraska musicians are Hazel Gertrude Kinscella, and the composers Howard Kirkpatrick, J. A. Parks, Wilbur Chenoweth, Jean Boyd and J. Frank Frysinger.

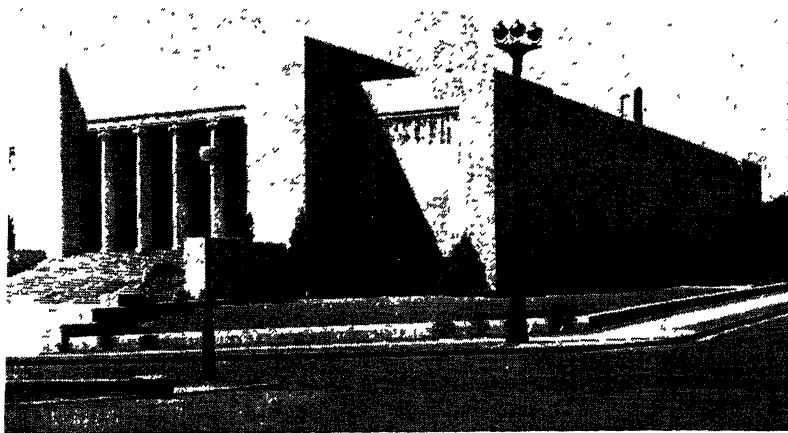
Architecture

NEBRASKA displays no style of architecture that the State can call its own. Builders have generally drawn upon precedents developed in the East or upon adaptations based upon German, Scandinavian, Czech, and other influences at work during the pioneer era. In the rich northeastern farmlands, big well-painted houses with dormer windows and screened porches represent prosperity and conservatism. In the central plains, box-like houses crouch behind windbreaks of trees or bushes, stripped bare in the struggle against erosion, pests, and drought. In the sandhills and cow-country, the typical ranch house suggests by its rambling design the freer, less formal ways of Western life.

The Nebraska farmer's red or white barn—large, strongly built, with a hay door fitting up into the inverted-V of the roof—typifies the large scale farming practiced in the Middle West. In the corn country cylindrical brick silos are common, often chocolate-colored with a white design running around the top; there are also cone-roofed pit or bank silos. The big grain elevators along the railroad tracks in small towns are conspicuous landmarks on the horizon. They are usually frame or concrete structures, painted white or red.

The earliest known buildings in Nebraska were Indian lodges. The Pawnee lodges, round, earth-covered dwellings with center fireplaces and burrow-like entrances, were 15 to 20 feet in diameter. Council lodges often measured 50 feet inside and were 20 feet high. None of the original lodges are extant, but some have been carefully reconstructed on various Indian reservations in the State.

During the sixties as white settlers moved into Nebraska away from the wooded streams and onto the plains, sod was of necessity used as a building material. As a preliminary step, the pioneer farmer selected a tract of ground bearing a dense growth of grass. The ground was plowed, and blocks of sod 12 by 36 inches were cut with a spade. The wall was started by placing three blocks side by side, the long dimension parallel with the proposed wall surface. Other courses of threes were then laid until the length of the wall—frequently 16 feet—was defined. Dirt or clay



JOSLYN MEMORIAL, OMAHA

was then pressed into the crevices along the sides and at the ends of the blocks of sod. The second tier of earth was placed in a similar manner, except that the joints were staggered or "broken" to avoid cutting and washing from rains. To give rigidity to the structure, the blocks of the third layer were placed crosswise on the preceding tiers.

With allowances made for doors and windows, this sequence—two layers lengthwise of the wall and the third crosswise—was followed until the desired height was reached.

When the surfaces inside and outside were smoothed with a sharp spade, the house was ready for its roof. If this had only one slope, three of the walls were "dropped" and then properly shaped. If it was gabled and had two slopes falling off from a high center, trees with forks were cut, trimmed, and used as uprights inside the walls, and the ridge pole was fixed in the forks. An intricate matting of branches, brush, and long prairie grasses was often used to hold up the outside roof-covering of sod. The gable ends were filled in with sod—or with lumber, when obtainable. A board floor was sometimes laid, but most early sod houses had earth floors. During dry seasons the sod houses stood bleak and gray. When rain was plentiful, however, the dormant roots in the sod came to life and the houses bloomed with weeds, morning-glories, and prairie roses. On a country road about 10 miles east of Scottsbluff is a sod house in good condition, built in the latter part of the nineteenth century. A few miles northeast of Bridgeport is another that has been standing since 1885. The sod



ARCHITECTURAL DETAIL, STATE CAPITOL

house of Isador Haumont at Round Valley, built in 1884, has since won the title of "the finest sod house in the world." Its eaves are 19 feet from the ground and the walls are 3 feet thick.

In rolling country, settlers and their livestock were often housed in dugouts in the sides of hills. These dugouts usually had timbered fronts, rear and side walls were natural earth, and skins were often used in place of doors and windows. Adobe houses sometimes appeared where the soil had the proper cohesiveness for the making of unburned bricks.

Log cabins were once common along the Missouri and the lower Platte; they were made of native unhewn or hand-hewn logs, cut to dovetail at the house corners, and held in place by wooden pegs or by notches. The roof was of thatch and sod; open spaces between the logs were filled in with mortar, clay, or sticks. A cabin usually had only one or two rooms, with blankets or skins in its doorway and greased paper over its windows and a fireplace at one end, made of stone, sod blocks, or wood and clay. Rough boards or stone slabs were sometimes used for flooring.

With the widespread use of wood-construction during the late nineteenth century, plain square structures, one or two stories high and capped with gable or hip roofs, became common. Windows were tall and narrow; gable ends, floor and window frames were frequently ornamented with elaborate scrolls of carved wood. The typical Nebraska farmhouse of today roughly follows this design. Verandas and bay windows have been added; gray stone or red brick often form the walls; fewer fancy bows (lovers'-knots), spools, and scrolls appear in the woodwork.

The livery stable, common in the horse-and-buggy days, was a huge, rambling frame building, in mass similar to a modern airplane hangar. The false-front building, outmoded in most towns, still thrusts its four-square face here and there between store buildings of modern construction.

County courthouses, built during the close of the nineteenth century, were sometimes square, inexpensive frame buildings; sometimes stone structures in the Victorian Gothic style. The design of the courthouse in Grand Island is based upon the traditional French "Hotel de Ville" style. Weathered and ornate, the building has a decorative tower, Ionic pillars along the front, pink and green metal scrollwork running along the ridges of the roof, and a clock set in elaborately carved stone. The Douglas County Courthouse is a good example of grandiose design in the eighties and nineties. More recent public buildings show a tendency toward the simplicity of classic forms.

The interiors of the old-time opera houses were much alike. A great horseshoe balcony, supported by iron posts ornately designed in the Corinthian style, juttied out over the main floor, its edge marking the division between parquet and dress circle on the floor below. The gallery described another horseshoe curve close to the lofty, decorated ceiling, and the red or green plush of the seats was as colorful as the gaudy frescoes covering the walls. A cluster of gas jets on a crystal globe showered light on the red and blue and gold of the ornamented box faces. The Liberty Theater in Lincoln, is one of the few pretentious old opera houses left standing, it was built in 1891 and is still used as a theater. Other old opera houses are the Academy of Music in Central City and the Opera House in Pender.

Nebraska cities show many architectural features that are common nationally, such as the standardized fronts of dime stores and other chain institutions. The older buildings in business sections are likely to be of the red-brick, over-decorated type that was popular in the late 1800's; newer buildings are plainer, usually of light-colored brick. Suburban architecture increasingly follows modern, functional design, for example, the



AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING BUILDING

combination of filling station, parking lot, and grocery store. In residential sections the squat bungalow type of house is becoming more and more popular, and is often built in the English cottage or Spanish adobe style. Sorority and fraternity houses, like the imposing homes of the rich, show a variety of traditional styles.

Impressive examples of Federal slum clearance and rehousing are the Logan Fontenelle Homes in Omaha, which occupy an area formerly covered with dilapidated shacks, houses, and flats. The 29 one- and two-story buildings of mottled brick, facing landscaped courts, accommodate 284 families. Apartments consist of three to five rooms, and are tenanted by both whites and Negroes. There are playgrounds for children and recreational centers for adults. The Homes were built as part of the slum clearance program of the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works at a cost of \$2,000,000. Construction was started in 1936 and completed in 1938.

Churches in Nebraska generally follow Gothic precedents. The First Presbyterian Church, the First Central Congregational Church in Omaha, and the First Presbyterian Church in Lincoln are examples. Among the larger churches recently built is the First Plymouth Congregational Church of Lincoln, designed by H. Van Buren Magonigle. Other churches are designed in Georgian Colonial, or in a modified Spanish Mission style. Important among these are St. Cecilia's Cathedral and St. Philomena's Church in Omaha.

Joslyn Memorial in Omaha, the work of John and Alan MacDonald, is a notable example of monumental architecture, designed in a free, simple manner.

The Nebraska Capitol, designed by Bertram Goodhue, is perhaps the most notable achievement in the career of this distinguished architect (*see LINCOLN*). The imposing mass of the structure with its gold-tipped, buttressed tower somewhat recalls the fortified cathedrals of Albi and Villefranche (Haute-Garonne) in southern France. The virile character of the architecture is admirably suited to the plains of the Midwest. Breaking a number of architectural precedents not only in its solution of the problem of a State capitol, but in its architectural idiom and treatment of mass, the Nebraska Capitol is one of the outstanding buildings of the twentieth century.

The Press

NEBRASKA journalism is comparatively young. The first newspaper was the *Nebraska Palladium and Platte Valley Advocate*, edited by Thomas Morton at Bellevue in 1854-55. Soon after the *Palladium* other newspapers began to appear all along the Missouri River, including the *Omaha Arrow*, a Nebraska City paper called the *Nebraska News*, and the *Omaha Nebraskan*; the last named continued for some ten years. The influential *Nebraska Advertiser*, started at Brownville in 1856 by Robert W. Furnas, had a migratory existence and finally merged with other papers.

In 1858 the press began to move into the interior of the State. In that year Joseph E. Johnson, a Mormon, published the *Huntsman's Echo*, setting up his press at a bend of Wood River near the present town of Shelton. The *Echo* was circulated among emigrants and freighters on the Oregon Trail, and in its two years of existence, did much to attract settlers to Nebraska. Its editor was a fluent writer who pictured in glowing terms the beauties and advantages of Nebraska—though later he himself left the State. He was one of the first to try crop raising here, and he planted many of the trees that stand in Shelton (*see Tour 8*).

The first newspaper in Nebraska that boasted of having presses "run other than by hand" was the *Nebraska Republican*. It began publication in Omaha on May 5, 1858, and an engine was connected with its presses in 1867. This paper was succeeded by the *Omaha Republican*, which had much to say about slavery and the control of the Territories. Later (1871) the *Republican* absorbed the *Omaha Tribune* and became the first successful daily newspaper in Nebraska.

The *Nebraska Farmer*, first agricultural paper in the Territory, was founded by Robert W. Furnas in 1859 and is still being published. Another agricultural paper issued at about this time, the *Peru Orchardist*, was shortlived. On December 11, 1860 the *Omaha Daily Telegraph*, first daily newspaper in Nebraska, began publication. The *Telegraph* was not a financial success, and in 1861 was sold to the *Omaha Nebraskan*.

In 1861 a German newspaper, the *Nebraska Deutsche Zeitung* (later the *Nebraska Staats Zeitung*), was started in Nebraska City by Dr. Frank

Renner. It had a national circulation and was also read in Germany, bringing many German pioneers to Nebraska.

A paper that did a great deal to help build Nebraska was the *Omaha Daily Herald*, started in October 1865. Its editor, Dr. George L. Miller, first physician in Omaha and a man of much character and vision, was influential in bringing the Union Pacific Railroad through the State.

These early newspapers were more like magazines than newspapers, no facilities for gathering news being available. The editors wrote semi-literary, imaginative articles about the Indians and the West, adventure and the meaning of life; they held strong opinions and were not afraid to state them. Few of the Territorial newspapers were able to survive for long: in 1860 there were twelve weeklies, one biweekly, and one monthly, with a combined circulation of 9,750.

After 1867—the year in which Nebraska was made a State—came a period of broad journalistic development; newspapers appeared in nearly every county, most of them printed with hand-set type. One at least, *The Pioneer*, was entirely handwritten; it was published “semi-occasionally” in Norfolk (1872) and not sold for money but traded for wheat, potatoes, minkskins, and eggs.

These publications were still editorially outspoken, but the editors were more concerned with politics than with the esthetic attractions of a sunset; only a death or a marriage inspired them to flights of imagination. This was the period of personal journalism, of editorial grudges and fights. Nebraska newspaper history records that one editor was killed by cattlemen who disliked his opinions. Syndicated matter on sensational topics such as murders, notorious persons, prize fights, and deep-sea diving was widely used.

Foreign-language papers—Swedish, Danish, Bohemian, and German—did much to encourage immigrants to settle in the State. There were several farm papers and numerous publications devoted to single causes: one for soldiers of the Union Army, one for organized workers of Omaha, several advocating temperance, and one that agitated for the removal of the Nation's Capital to Kearney.

In the spring of 1869 Lincoln's *Nebraska Commonwealth*, edited by C. H. Gere, became the *Nebraska State Journal*; and on July 20, 1870, the same day that the Burlington & Missouri Railroad ran its first train into Lincoln, the *Journal* was changed to a daily. The paper soon became one of the most widely read in the State. In 1882 a Minden mob hanged the *Journal* in effigy as a protest against its editorial support of a verdict granting a new trial to a desperado and horse thief. Walt Mason, the poet, was

THE PIONEER



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Women's Rights

To know their rights

And knowing dare mean

Has been repeated over and over

the qualities of noble men

And if of men tis truly said

Why not of her to whom

All men acknowledge

Their utmost powers of

And heart to know.

To know their rights

Is the true end

From this not to be lost

And how as a nation

Of slaves without a

By joy to endure

By joy to endure

on the *Journal* staff, and work by Willa Cather, the novelist, appeared in its pages.

In 1871 Edward Rosewater established the *Omaha Bee* and the *Pokrok Zapadu* (Progress of the West), the first Bohemian newspaper in Nebraska. Rosewater was a Jewish Bohemian immigrant who began life in America in obscurity and rose to a position of influence. He initiated campaigns that brought improvements to the State and particularly to Omaha. In 1927 the *Bee*, then in the hands of Nelson Updyke, a grain dealer, was consolidated with the *Omaha Daily News* and became the *Omaha Bee-News*. The following year the paper was taken over by William Randolph Hearst; in 1937 Hearst sold it to the *Omaha World-Herald*, which thereby secured a monopoly on local newspaper circulation.

The *Omaha World-Herald* was a result of the consolidation in 1889 of the *Evening World*—started by Gilbert M. Hitchcock—with the *Omaha Herald*. William Jennings Bryan became editor-in-chief of the *World-Herald* on September 1, 1894. Seven years later (January 1901) Bryan started his own newspaper, the *Commoner*, in Lincoln. A national weekly, devoted mostly to political and religious topics, it continued publication for 20 years. Its prototype was the *Conservative*, founded by J. Sterling Morton in 1898 and suspended after his death, in 1902.

In 1900 the linotype had come into use; there were 38 daily newspapers, 11 semiweeklies, and 518 weeklies in Nebraska—617 in all. The number rose to 623 during the next decade, but by 1936 it had decreased to 413 (22 dailies, 5 semiweeklies, and 384 weeklies—two of which are published by Negroes).

Two Nebraska editors have won Pulitzer Prizes for their editorials. They are Harvey E. Newbranch, of the *Omaha World-Herald*, for his "Law and the Jungle," a protest against a lynching in Omaha in 1919; and Charles S. Ryckman, of the *Fremont Tribune*, in 1930 for his "The Gentleman from Nebraska," an analysis of why Nebraska voters continued to return Senator George W. Norris to Congress.

Literature

NINETEEN thirteen, the year in which Willa Cather published *O Pioneers*, was followed by a period of intensive production in Nebraska literature. The region had furnished material for earlier writers; Nebraska men and women had already published significant poetry and prose; and twenty years before, at the University of Nebraska, Miss Cather's teachers had given direction to a vital literary movement. One of its leaders, Prosser Hall Frye, edited *The Mid-West Quarterly* from 1913 to 1918. In *O Pioneers* Miss Cather rejected the methods of her former masters, Henry James and Edith Wharton; writing simply and spontaneously of the West, she produced a memorable example of the modern regional novel. In 1915 John G. Neihardt published *The Song of Hugh Glass*, the first of his cycle of epic poems. In the same year Edwin Ford Piper, one of the State's best-known poets, elegized the passing of the free range in *Barbed Wire and Other Poems*; Louise Pound published *Folk-Song of Nebraska and the Central West*, and Miss Cather her second regional novel, *The Song of the Lark*. In 1917 was presented *The Pageant of Lincoln*—a semi-centennial masque, by Hartley Burr Alexander. In the following year, Frederick Ballard's *Believe Me, Xantippe*, became a theatrical success, and *My Antonia*, by Willa Cather, was acclaimed by critics as a great novel of the Middle West.

The tendency toward poetic or dramatic treatment is as clearly apparent in the literature of these five years, 1913-1918, as is the interest in regional subject matter, whether historic or contemporary. These two characteristics continue to shape the best of Nebraska's more recent writing, although Mari Sandoz and Sophus K. Winther bring a more strongly realistic note to the novel, and the plays of farm people by E. P. Conkle and Virgil Geddes have little in common with the poetic masques of Alexander. Nevertheless the State's major writers today are poets in spirit, whatever their medium—descendants of early settlers who were, as Miss Cather describes them, "impractical to the point of magnificence," and of pioneers who "dreamed the railroads across the mountains."

It may be that the gray prairie itself, the "drift of the sullen dust"

(Herbert Bates), the harsh and circumscribed existence, emphasize in men and women their own great desires, the opposition of death and life—the lasting themes for poetry. Miss Cather has made this the underlying idea of all her finest work, and the artist, in one form or another, is a favorite character. Old Jules Sandoz told his daughter Mari that he considered "artists and writers the maggots of society," yet requested her to write his story. From the struggles of Old Jules, a cultivated European, to repeople again and again a desert country, to make orchards grow in the sandhills, Miss Sandoz created a great and beautiful epic, *Old Jules* (1935).

There is no lack of literature concerned with the Nebraska country before the days of the early settlers. The records of the Lewis and Clark expedition, the journals of Zebulon Montgomery Pike, Stephen H. Long, and John Charles Frémont, the autobiography of Kit Carson—all describe, brilliantly or naïvely, this uncharted land. Father de Smet, the first Roman Catholic missionary to the region, gives a realistic, sometimes humorous, picture of the wilderness and its inhabitants, in *Letters and Sketches* (1843). Francis Parkman's *Oregon Trail* (1849) deals to a great extent with the eastern end of the trail—now Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska. The Pawnee are the subject of John Treat Irving's *Indian Sketches* (1835) and *The Hunters of the Prairie* (1837). The recently published *Forty-Niners* (1931), by Archer Butler Hulbert, gives an illuminating picture of the period when thousands of Mormons crossed the Nebraska country on the way to their promised land, and when other thousands marched in pursuit of gold.

As settlement progressed, needs other than the immediate and material asserted themselves. Toward the end of the nineteenth century the literary movement, which was to flower in the 1900's, began to develop with the State university as its center. Lucius Adelno Sherman, for many years chairman of the English faculty and a proponent of humanism, attempted in *The Analytics of Literature* (1893) and later volumes to formulate a precise system of literary criticism. A notable number of Nebraska writers and members of the university faculty likewise have published volumes of critical essays: H. B. Alexander, P. H. Frye, Louise Pound, Clarke Fisher Ansley, Herbert Bates, and Sherlock Bronson Gass.

But the inspiration and intelligent direction given the university students did more than published volumes to influence the growth of literature in the State. This is especially true of two young English teachers, Clarke Fisher Ansley (later the editor of *Columbia Encyclopedia*, 1935) and Herbert Bates, who came from New England in 1891 and returned to the East in 1897.



OLD JULES SANDOZ

Bates brought New England and the prairie together in his own early poetry, *Songs in Exile* (1896), in which he described with fresh vision and keen emotion the Nebraska plains. His later work is largely in the field of literary criticism. *Modern Lyric Poetry*, an excellent anthology, was published in 1929.

During this same period William Jennings Bryan was enriching the literature of oratory with some thirty volumes. His personality and influence entitle him to a place in the literary pattern of the State as definitely as in its political history.

The work of Willa Cather, who was one of the early university group, seems superficially to represent three distinct periods: the first, in which she was influenced by the method of Henry James—the period of her short stories collected in *The Troll Garden* (1905), the lyrics in *April Twilights* (1903), and her first novel, *Alexander's Bridge* (1912); the second period, in which she wrote her three great regional novels and the superb novelette, *A Lost Lady* (1923); and the most recent period, separated from the other two by several comparatively unimportant books. In this last phase she returns to the Southwest in *Death Comes for the Archbishop* (1927); writes of French Quebec in *Shadows on the Rock* (1931); but in both she retreats from modern life toward an old and stable spiritual order.

In spite of the apparent changes in point of view—particularly within the last two periods—Miss Cather's work shows an underlying unity. Her theme has always been the struggle of man's spirit against alien forces, beautifully realized in Alexandra, the heroine of *O Pioneers*, and in Antonia. Implicit in most of her work is the faith that in art man can eternally aspire to, and eternally achieve, something of unquestioned value.

In the judgment of many critics, *A Lost Lady* marks the high point in Miss Cather's career. The earlier novels, *My Antonia* especially, are warm and tender recollections of the Nebraska prairies, human fortitude and courage triumph over the harsh environment. *A Lost Lady* is a clear and forceful treatment of the end of the frontier epoch, and of the disintegration of pioneer values and ideals. Miss Cather, in subsequent novels, seems unable to find the elements of a satisfying philosophy in the modern world, and to depend increasingly on the religious and cultural ideals of an earlier society.

Born in Virginia, Willa Sibert Cather moved with her family to a ranch in Nebraska when she was nine years old, entered the university some six years later, and then returned to the East shortly after graduation. But the

early years on the ranch were to influence all her work as an artist. Few writers have so skillfully evoked a place or an atmosphere as Miss Cather has succeeded in doing in her subtle and admirable prose.

Keene Abbott, another member of the university group, indicates his gratitude to Clarke Ansley by dedicating to him *Tree of Life*, a tale of the prairie. *Wine o' the Winds* (1920) is a romantic novel of Indian and Oregon Trail days.

Of a later group of novelists several have gained national recognition: Mari Sandoz, Ivan Beede, Sophus Keith Winther, Dorothy Thomas, and Mignon Good Eberhardt. Virginia Faulkner (born in 1913), in *The Barbarians* and *Friends and Romans* (1934), shows a delightful and sophisticated talent. Mrs. Eberhardt is one of the most tasteful and competent of modern detective story writers. Clyde Brion Davis, who was born in Nebraska, has but recently won wide popularity with *The Anointed* (1937) and *The Great American Novel* (1938), both novels clearly in the American tempo.

One of Nebraska's most popular writers, and best known for her stories of the pioneers, is Bess Streeter Aldrich. Living in a country town by choice, keeping close to the farm because she understands and admires its life, she has written of the physical hardships and spiritual triumphs of these people with deep insight and sympathy.

Of a very different order are *Ma Jeeter's Girls* (1933) and *The Home Place* (1936), by Dorothy Thomas—lifelike, humorous, and sympathetic portrayals of farm people, in the rhythms of everyday speech. Ivan Beede, in *Prairie Woman* (1930), is also a realist, picturing the disillusion and frustration of Nebraska life in the post-World War period. Danish immigrant life in Nebraska is the theme of Sophus Keith Winther's trilogy: *Take All to Nebraska* (1936), *Mortgage Your Heart* (1937), and *This Passion Never Dies* (1938). Earnestly, if not always passionately, conceived, these chronicles of a family who made their way to the Middle West have much to tell of the social history of the State.

Probably the most important piece of prose literature to come from Nebraska since *O Pioneers* is *Old Jules* (1935), a biography, which won for Mari Sandoz the Atlantic Monthly Prize. Old Jules, the author's father, a Swiss immigrant—fiery-tempered, passionate, and lovable—settled in the sandhills section of the State. His last words before he died reveal the man's indomitable faith and will, "We'll build this country up again." Miss Sandoz's novel, *Slogum House* (1937), has been described as "a searing narrative told with dazzling vividness . . . the language of the frontier, of the saloon, of the fancy house . . ." In both biography and

novel, Mari Sandoz treats epic material boldly, but with emotional restraint and scrupulous intellectual honesty.

Two significant contemporary writers express themselves through the medium of the drama. Virgil Geddes draws upon experience of his Nebraska boyhood for many of his plays: *The Earth Between* (1928), *Mud on the Hoofs* (1929), *The Stable and the Grove* (1930), and the trilogy *Native Ground* (1932). Like his plays, his short stories and poems, particularly *40 Poems* (1926) and *Decisions Before Battle* (1938), reflect the spiritual suffering and demoralization of people living in isolation.

E. P. Conkle's richly humorous and idiomatic plays are also based on the life he knows, on the ways and speech of Nebraska farm people. Barrett Clark wrote of the short *Crick Bottom Plays* (1926) that here was "a really new note in native playwriting." Though *200 Were Chosen* (1935) and *Prologue to Glory* (1937) are better known, Mr. Conkle's one-act plays are popular with college groups and Little Theater companies. *Prologue to Glory*, a drama of Abraham Lincoln's early life, was successfully produced in 1938 by the Federal Theater in New York City.

Perhaps partly because of the number of poet-teachers who came to the State, poetry had an early and important place in Nebraska literature. John G. Neihardt, who became professor of poetry at the University of Nebraska in 1923, was born in Illinois in 1881. A few years later he was brought by his widowed mother to the frontier town of Wayne, Nebraska. From 1901 until 1907 Neihardt lived at the edge of the Omaha Indian Reservation, near Bancroft; here, and in later wanderings, he became familiar with the land and the legends which he eventually used in his narrative poems. Though published first, *The Song of Hugh Glass* (1915) is really the second member of a cycle of epic tales, planned to cover the development of the country beyond the Missouri from the time of Lewis and Clark up to the end of the Sioux Wars. *The Song of Three Friends* (1919) and *The Song of the Indian Wars* (1925) complete the trilogy. *The Song of the Messiah* (1935), while not structurally part of the cycle, belongs to it in spirit—a lament for the destruction of the Indian people. Neihardt's verse form (the rhyming couplet throughout much of his work) becomes at times monotonous; but in certain passages he reaches poetic heights. As a whole the cycle is nobly conceived, and the individual tales are historically correct and movingly told.

Hartley Burr Alexander, professor of philosophy at the State university from 1908 until 1927, is the author of many studies in metaphysics, literature, and Indian art and philosophy. As a poet he is especially interested in symbolism and in the building of masques and pageants involving

metaphysical themes. Characteristic of his work are the *Manito Masks* (1925), dramatizations with music of American Indian spirit legends, and *Taiwa* (1934), which is based on an Indian version of the Orpheus theme. *Taiwa*, it has been pointed out, might be entitled "Pawnee Legend of the Spirit Bride." The poems in *Odes and Lyrics* (1922) reflect Alexander's interest in mythological and philosophical themes. His love of symbolism is clearly apparent in the inscriptions and decorations that he designed for the Nebraska State Capitol, the University of Nebraska Stadium, Rockefeller Center, and other public buildings.

Edwin Ford Piper, a poet of distinction, has been for many years professor of poetry at the University of Iowa, and is now a member of the staff of the School of Letters, established in 1930 to encourage creative writing. He was influential in the creation of the school, and is one of the most active figures in Middle Western literary movements. His own poetic work, in *Barbed Wire and Other Poems* (1917), *Barbed Wire and Wayfarers* (1924), and *Paintrock Road* (1927), shows great sensitivity to the country around him and, even more, towards the individuals he meets. For Piper, the passing of the open range, the cowboy, and the wild life of the prairie means the passing of something strong and good as well as picturesque.

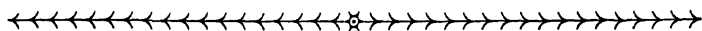
The work of many poets not so well known is included in two anthologies of *Nebraska Verse*, published in 1924 and 1925. Among the younger poets, one of the most talented is Helene Magaret, whose *Trumpeting Crane* (1934) maintains a high level throughout a long narrative poem and in the lyrics that are an integral part of it. Miss Magaret's work appeared first in the *Prairie Schooner*, which began publication at Lincoln in 1927. Wilbur Gaffney and Loren Eiseley have contributed, to this and other little magazines, poems of individuality and power.

Lowry Charles Wimberly, editor of the *Schooner*, is the author of numerous short stories and studies in balladry. His *Folklore in the English and Scottish Ballads* was published in 1928, and a collection of stories, *The Famous Cats of Fairyland*, in 1938.

In the folklore field, Margaret Cannell is the author of *Signs, Omens, and Portents in Nebraska Folklore* (1933). Following the critical and scholarly tradition, Louise Pound has distinguished herself in her study of *Poetic Origins and the Ballad* (1921). *Folk-Song of Nebraska and the Central West* (1915) and *American Ballads and Songs* (1922) were collected and edited by Miss Pound. She is an editor and one of the founders of the magazine, *American Speech*.

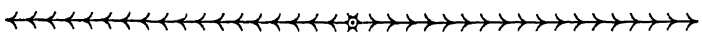
The historical literature of Nebraska deserves notice. A multitude of

writers have written local history. The State's history is presented in *Nebraska*, by A. T. Andreas (1882), and the three-volume *History of Nebraska* by J. Sterling Morton and (chiefly) Albert Watkins (1910-20). Addison E. Sheldon, State historian, is author and editor of about twenty volumes, chief among them being *Poems and Sketches of Nebraska* (1907); *History and Stories of Nebraska* (1913); *Documents of Nebraska Life* (1923); *Nebraska, the Land and the People* (3 vols., 1931); *Land Systems and Land Policies in Nebraska* (1935); and *Nebraska, Old and New* (1937).



PART II

Cities and Towns



Beatrice

Railroad Stations: 118 Court St., for Chicago, Burlington & Quincy R.R.; 2nd and Court St., for Union Pacific R.R.; S. 6th St., for Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Ry.
Bus Station: 6th and Elk Sts., for Chicago and Northwestern Stages, Interstate Transit Lines, Santa Fe Trailways, Union Pacific Stages.

Taxis: 15¢ minimum

Traffic Regulations: One- and two-hour parking spaces marked in downtown section. Main intersection, 6th and Court Sts.

Accommodations: Three hotels; two tourist camps.

Information Service: Chamber of Commerce, 106 S. 6th St.

Motion Picture Houses. Three.

Athletics: Chautauqua Park, 6th St. S. of Blue River, Athletic Park, 4th St. from Elk to High

Swimming: Riverside Park, on Blue River NW corner of town, fee 25¢

Golf: Beatrice Country Club, 2 m. SE. of town, 18 holes, fee 50¢ except Sunday, 75¢; Westbrook Golf Course, SW. corner of town, 9 holes, fee 25¢, except Sundays, holidays, 50¢

Tennis: Chautauqua Park, 10th and Grable Sts. Free.

Annual Events: Gage County Fair, September

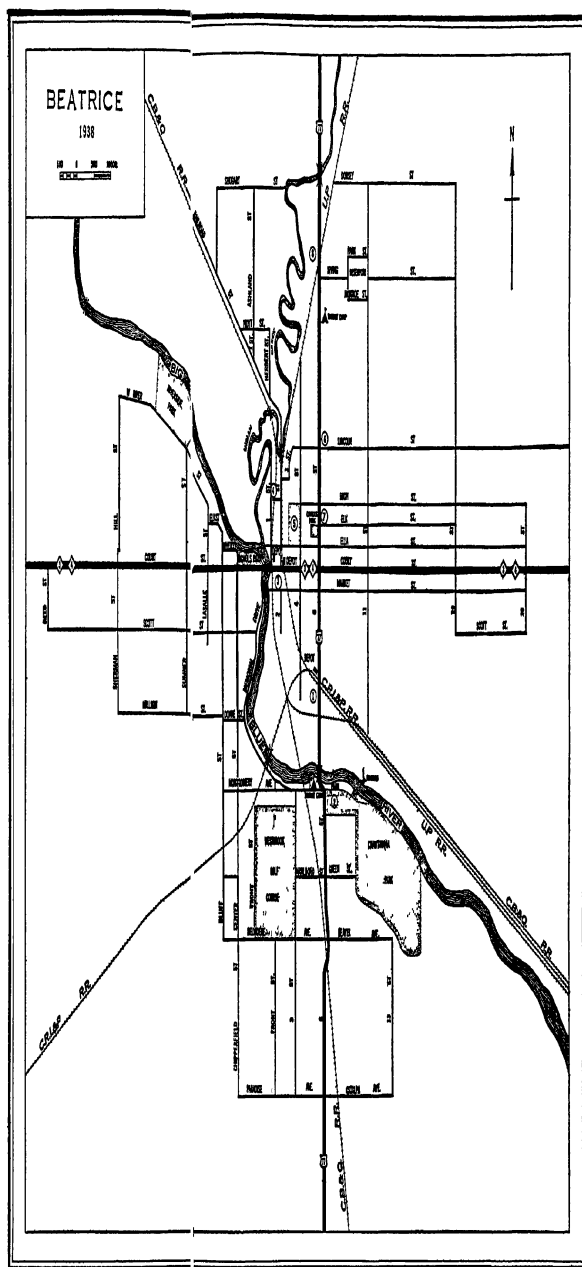
BEATRICE (1,235 alt., 10,297 pop.), in the midst of fertile farming country, is both a farm town and an industrial city—a trading post for farmers bringing cream and eggs to town in the evening, and a manufacturing center of more than local importance. The muddy, slow-moving Blue River winds leisurely through the city, spills over a power dam at the west side of town, later passes near grimy manufacturing plants, and finally flows past a spacious park, separating it from the small, drab houses of the city's poorer inhabitants. The business section stands well back from the river, and farther to the northeast are the finer residences—the tree-shaded homes of the city's rich manufacturers and land-owners.

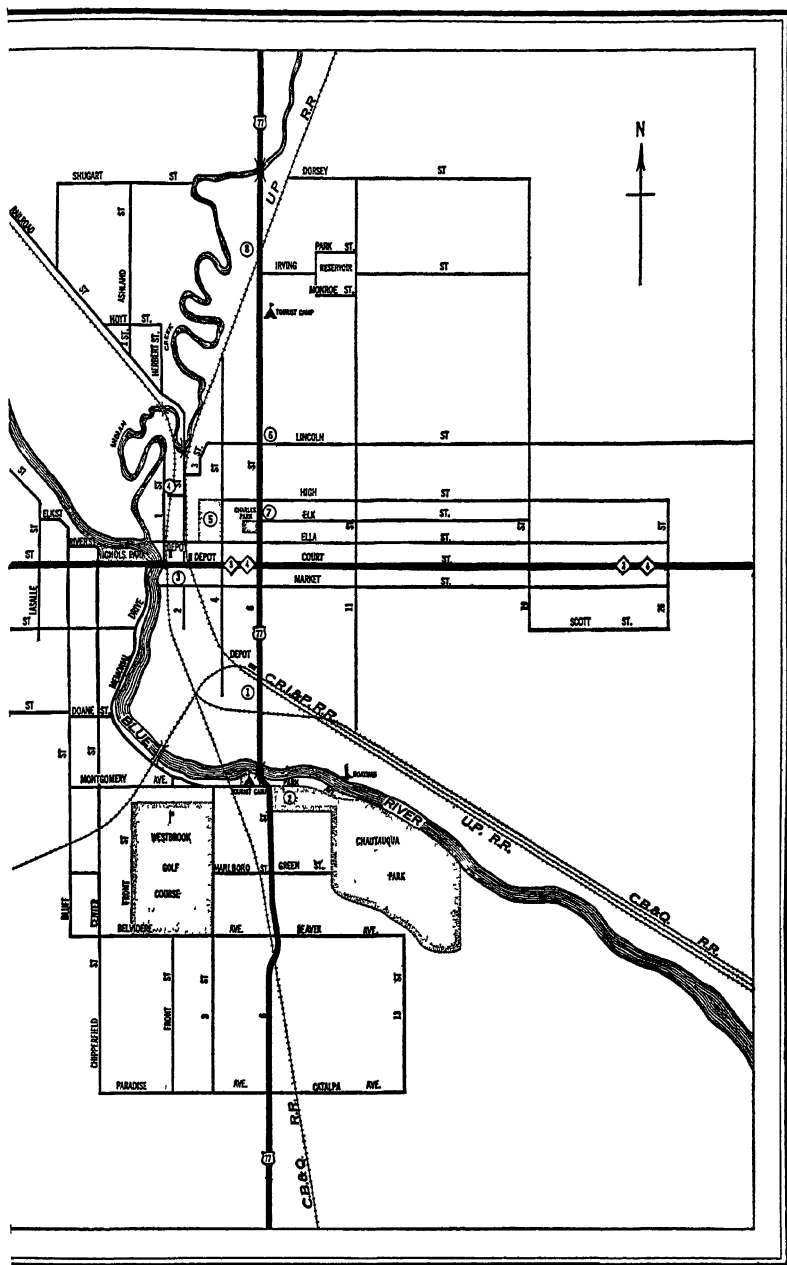
The town has always had room to spread out, so most of the downtown buildings are low, arranged without much logical scheme. The stores and churches are generally old-fashioned in appearance, ornately adorned with columns and arches. The many fine trees of the town have suffered from drought, but they are still the best ornaments of the city. It is a healthy, prosperous city, unusual in that 60 percent of its citizens own their homes.

Beatrice was named for a girl who saw the town only once or twice—the daughter of Judge John Kinney, one of the founders. The Kinneys were members of a party that in April 1857 formed the Nebraska Association to establish a settlement in the State. Kinney was president of the group. A townsite was chosen on the banks of the Blue River, where there was excellent water and timber; and on July 4, 1857, the new town was christened. Beatrice Kinney came over with her father from Nebraska

KEY

1. Dempster Mill Factory
2. Chautauqua Park
3. Sonderegger Nursery
4. F. D. Kees Factory
5. Athletic Park
6. County Court House
7. Methodist Episcopal Church
8. Store Kraft Mfg. Plant





City to read some of her own verses at the ceremony; but the Kinneys never had a residence in the town. Originally *Beatrice*, the name is now pronounced with the stress on the *at*, a deviation attributed by some to brass-voiced railroad conductors.

A United States Land Office was in Beatrice for almost twenty years after 1868, and through it more than a million acres of land were entered by homesteaders.

By 1870 Beatrice had more than 600 inhabitants, and was a center for stagecoach travel and mail distribution. Even at that time the usual trades were practiced there, from millinery to the law; there was quarrying nearby, and some manufacturing of lath and shingles. The year 1871 was eventful for the settlement. That year the Burlington Railroad established a line to Beatrice; a county courthouse was completed; and in September Beatrice was formally incorporated as a town. Incorporation as a city followed two years later.

In the next ten years the population doubled; and doubled again during the succeeding ten years. The late eighties was a period of swift growth and expansion for the city; many "additions" pushed city limits farther out. In the early nineties the present courthouse and the post office were built; paving of the streets was under way; and the city had a waterworks system.

During the early decades of the twentieth century, Beatrice steadily improved its streets and schools, built a library, agitated for a new jail, and improved facilities generally. During this period more industries grew up, and the town continued to thrive until the hard times of the 1930's, when severe and continued drought in the State made Beatrice realize as seldom before its dependence on farm prosperity.

By 1937 some of the principal factories had cut production seriously, and certain gaps had appeared in the industrial scene. The burning in February, 1937, of Black Brothers Flour Mill—here since 1879—left the dam at the west edge of town temporarily useless. The Beatrice Creamery Company centralized its manufacturing in Lincoln, and the Beatrice plant became a buying and selling agency. The factories of the town produce silos, showcases, mirrors, cultivators, steel tanks, hardware specialties, windmills, gasoline engines, and a variety of other products. And business men continue to hope that better weather will bring better times.

Walt Mason, writer of syndicated prose-poems lived for a time in Beatrice; Harold Lloyd, screen comedian, sold popcorn in the streets as a boy; and Robert Taylor, born Arlington Brugh, cinema idol of high school girls, performed in high school plays.

POINTS OF INTEREST

1. The DEMPSTER MILL FACTORY (*open 8-5 weekdays; working days vary with season; guides*), 711 S 6th St., is a two-story rambling brick building. One of the largest plants of its kind west of the Mississippi, its products include a complete line of farm water equipment, and a smaller



BLUE RIVER, BEATRICE

line of farm implements. The company was founded in 1878 by C. B. Dempster who, with \$37 of his own and \$300 borrowed from relatives, bought a third interest in a small retail pump and windmill shop.

2. CHAUTAUQUA PARK, 31 acres, south bank of the river from 6th St. eastward, is a combination of the old chautauqua grounds with a later extension on the west, the fine old trees and winding drives of the older area making an obvious break with the neatly landscaped addition. On the grounds are a pavilion, boathouse, bandstand, and other buildings. A small creek runs through the grounds, and there is a large rock garden.

Chautauqua programs were once very popular in Beatrice. From the time a local chautauqua association of business and professional men was formed in 1889 until early in the 1900's, a chautauqua circuit brought to these grounds each summer a week or so of lectures, plays, music, and other entertainments. People flocked to the programs from all over the countryside, in such numbers that there was sometimes neither room nor food left in any of the local restaurants or hotels. In 1910, after the chautauqua custom had died out, the city acquired the grounds and made it a park.

MEMORIAL DRIVE, from 6th St. to Nickols Park on Court St., is a paved drive running about a mile and a quarter along the informally landscaped southern and western bank of the Blue River. Construction of the drive was promoted by the American Legion, and was carried out in the early 1930's.

3. The SONDEREGGER NURSERY OFFICE AND STORAGE HOUSE (*open 5-8 weekdays; guides*), 2nd and Market Sts., is a two-story structure housing the offices, storage bins, and shipping room of one of the largest seed and nursery houses in the State. In winter the exposed, dank-smelling roots of thousands of fruit and shade trees line the dimly lit passageways of the storage houses, awaiting shipment or replanting in the spring. A specialty of the company is its evergreen trees, which can be inspected summer or winter at the nursery farm southeast of town, entrance on S. 10th St.

The late Carl Sonderegger, whose work has been carried on by five sons, came to America from Switzerland in 1875 and purchased a tract of unimproved land 20 miles west of Beatrice. Using scientific methods he developed a well-equipped nursery farm. In 1900 headquarters were established in Beatrice.

4. The F. D. KEES FACTORY (*open 8-5 weekdays; work days vary with season; guides*), 24 High St., is a low red-brick building, long and wide in which cornhusking hooks, skates, and numerous other pressed metal hardware specialties are manufactured. The odd-shaped machines lined up through the factory are used for a wide range of processes—from the shaping of curtain rods to the counting of ball bearings for roller skate wheels. The founder of the company, Frederick D. Kees, was a German locksmith and tool maker, who in 1874 opened a gun and lock repair shop in Beatrice. He developed one of the first practical cornhusking hooks, and branched out into the production of other metal articles.

5. ATHLETIC PARK, about 5 acres, W. of 4th St. between Ella and High Sts., is the scene of high-school football games and other athletic events, including floodlit baseball games on summer nights. A grandstand and bleachers overlook the grounds. At the north end is a rock garden. Though the property of the local school district, the park was partly financed by private individuals.

6. The COUNTY COURTHOUSE (*open 8-5 weekdays*), SE. corner 6th and Lincoln Sts., is a three-story gray stone structure with a square, solid look about it. The BEATRICE MUSEUM, on the 3d floor (*see custodian for visiting arrangements*), contains relics of early pioneer life: wooden cradles for grain cutting, a wooden flail used for pounding out grain, wooden shovels, washboards, old spinning wheels. Two irons of early origin are here, improvements over the old sad-iron; one has a firebox for the burning of charcoal, and the other has a removable interior that was taken out and heated and put back through a sliding door. Dishes, cast-iron kettles, parching dishes, oaken buckets, candle molds, and gourd dippers are on display.

7. The METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, NE. corner 6th and Elk Sts., an imposing structure of Gothic design completed in 1930 at a cost of \$215,000, is constructed of yellow stone from the Silverdale quarry in Kansas. This stone mellows unevenly, and as years pass the church takes on a richer, more mottled appearance.

8. The STORE-KRAFT MFG. PLANT (*open 8-5 weekdays; guides*), 6th and Irving Sts., includes an office building and a large two-story fac-

tory. On the ground floor of the factory great stacks of lumber undergo the elementary processes in their conversion into showcases and other furnishings for five- and ten-cent and dollar stores; finishing work is done on the upper floor. The company was organized in 1920. It employs about 240 persons, and ships products to many parts of the United States, South America, and Europe.

POINTS OF INTEREST IN ENVIRONS

Institution for Feeble-Minded Youth, 2 1 m.; Daniel Freeman Homestead, 4.5 m. (*see Tour 11*).

Fremont

Railroad Stations: Union Station, 110 S. Main St., for Union Pacific R.R. Chicago & North Western Ry.; Burlington Station, 210 S. Main St., for Chicago, Burlington & Quincy R.R.

Bus Stations: Union Bus Depot, 630 N. Main St., for Union Pacific, North Western, Blue Pole Lines, Pathfinder Hotel, 97 W. 6th St., for Burlington.

Taxis. 25¢; over 16 blocks, 35¢.

Traffic Regulations. Speed limit 15 m. in business district, 20 m. in residential section. Large free parking space, 6th and H Sts

Accommodations: Two hotels, four tourist camps.

Information Service: Chamber of Commerce, 123 E. 5th St

Theaters and Motion Picture Houses: Auditorium, Broad St. between 9th and 10th Sts., two motion picture houses.

Baseball. Fremont Baseball Park, 821 S. Main St.

Swimming: Kelser Lake, first pit on side of road to Big Island.

Golf: Fremont Golf Club, 548 W. 23rd St., 18 holes, greens fee 50¢; \$1 Sundays and holidays.

Annual Events: 4-H Club Fair, August; Elks' Fair, November.

FREMONT (1,196 alt., 11,407 pop.), is a college town and agricultural trading center on the north bank of the wide, muddy Platte River just opposite Fremont Island. Although the town area of about four miles is quite level, the junction of the Elkhorn Valley and the Platte River Valley nearby forms a background of hills mantled with timber. Bluffs near the Platte vary the scenery, and sand pits to the west of the town have been made State recreation grounds.

The city is a distributing center for the rich Elkhorn Valley farm land to the north. It is also a minor railroad center. At one time it gave some promise of becoming an industrial town, but these hopes early disappeared, although there are still poultry-packing plants, creameries, and incubator factories.

August 25, 1856, the first claim stake was driven for "Pinney, Barnard & Co.'s Town Site." No surveyor's chain was handy, so a rope was used, which may have stretched, accounting for irregularities in the original plat. The first step in building Fremont was a resolution passed in 1856 by the Fremont Town Association, which developed from the earlier company, providing that two lots be given anyone erecting a hewn-log house 16 feet by 20 feet and a story and half high within the following six months. The association would furnish timber for the cabin, and firewood for a year. The town was named for Col. John C. Frémont, then candidate for President.

In the fall of 1856, the Pawnee, who had looked askance at the inroads



FISHING IN SAND PIT, FREMONT

the new settlers were making upon their timber land, sent 20 of their strongest chiefs across the river to inform the settlers that unless Fremont were vacated within three days the Pawnee would force them out. With soldiers sent from Omaha the whites burned strawstacks and marched and countermarched their little army until the Pawnee were sufficiently impressed with the overpowering force against them. After the settlers had fed the chiefs there was no further trouble, for the Indians were merely hungry.

The settlers also were often hungry. There were no good crops for about three years. Meanwhile they lived on bread and grease, using buffalo meat to flavor the gravy. Credit could not be obtained from grocers in Omaha on account of the financial panic that swept the country and such crops as were raised could not be sold for a reasonable sum. Lots in Fremont sold at 75¢ each, to repay the money borrowed by the company for the original purchase of the town site. Money became almost unknown to these settlers. Even postage stamps were a curiosity. The first year there were not more than three or four cows in the settlement and their owners were the town's aristocrats. Yet the pioneers of Fremont found amusement and gayety, going for rides in oxcarts over the surrounding prairie, or dancing on the warped floor of a log cabin to a fiddler's tune.

In 1859 George Turner built a log boarding house. The logs were cut on a big island in the Platte River, and Turner swam across the channel with his logs, one by one.

The settlers were recompensed for the hardships they endured, because Fremont was a natural break in the journey from Omaha to Fort Kearney, and the emigrants who passed through brought prosperity. A stage company also routed its coaches through Fremont, further assuring prosperity to the little settlement. The Mormons often passed through. Their processions of covered wagons drawn by oxen, and carts drawn by cows, men, women, and dogs were long remembered. In 1860 Fremont was made the seat of Dodge County.

Encouraged when the Union Pacific Railroad brought its line through the town in 1866, the citizens established one of the first newspapers in the Platte Valley, the *Fremont Tribune*, in the attic of a furniture store. The First National Bank began in the back room of a hardware store. In 1869 the Sioux City & Pacific Railroad joined at Fremont with the Union Pacific. This was an occasion for bell ringing, parades, and speeches on the future of Fremont and the Elkhorn Valley. Of even more importance was the building of the Elkhorn Valley branch, which was begun in 1870. A year later, the town was incorporated. A YMCA was organized before Nebraska was admitted to the Union.

Many of the early dreams of a great future ultimately vanished. But as transportation was developed and as the uplands of Dodge County were drained and made tillable, Fremont became increasingly important as an agricultural center. Flour mills, a small fur trade, and a canning factory indicate the town's importance as a market. Sand and gravel are the basis of an industry that is important throughout the State. Midland College,

moved from Atchison, Kansas, in 1919, gave the city the cultural influence it craved. Gutzon Borglum, sculptor, studied in Fremont schools and Keene Abbott, novelist and journalist, was born here.

POINTS OF INTEREST

1. MIDLAND COLLEGE, 720 E. 9th St., coeducational, so named because it is near the geographical center of the United States, has a 10-acre campus and seven rectangular red brick buildings, one of which, the Astronomical Observatory, is outside the campus. The grounds are bordered by low shrubs and are wooded with American and Chinese elms, hard maples, sycamores, and evergreens. The arrangement of the buildings is rather formal, the group facing the drive and dominated by the two newer structures on the east side.

The college was founded at Atchison, Kansas in 1887 by the Board of Education of the General Synod Lutheran Church, now the United Lutheran Church. In 1919 the campus and buildings of the Fremont Normal School and Business College, which was opened in October 1884, were purchased by Midland College. Nebraska Lutherans and Fremont citizens subscribed liberally. From time to time new buildings have been added.

The college grants A.B. and B.S. degrees and offers pre-professional training in such fields as engineering, medicine, law, business administration, nursing, pharmacy, dentistry, and journalism. There are seven schools. Liberal Arts, Education, Fine Arts, Business, Extension, Summer and Western Theological Seminary.

The best known extra curricular activities include the basketball team, four times Nebraska College Athletic Conference champions; the *a cappella* choir, which has traveled more than 22,000 miles from coast to coast presenting concerts since 1928; and the *Midland*, weekly newspaper, which has twice received All-American rating from the National Scholastic Press Association. There are alumni in 36 States and 7 foreign countries.

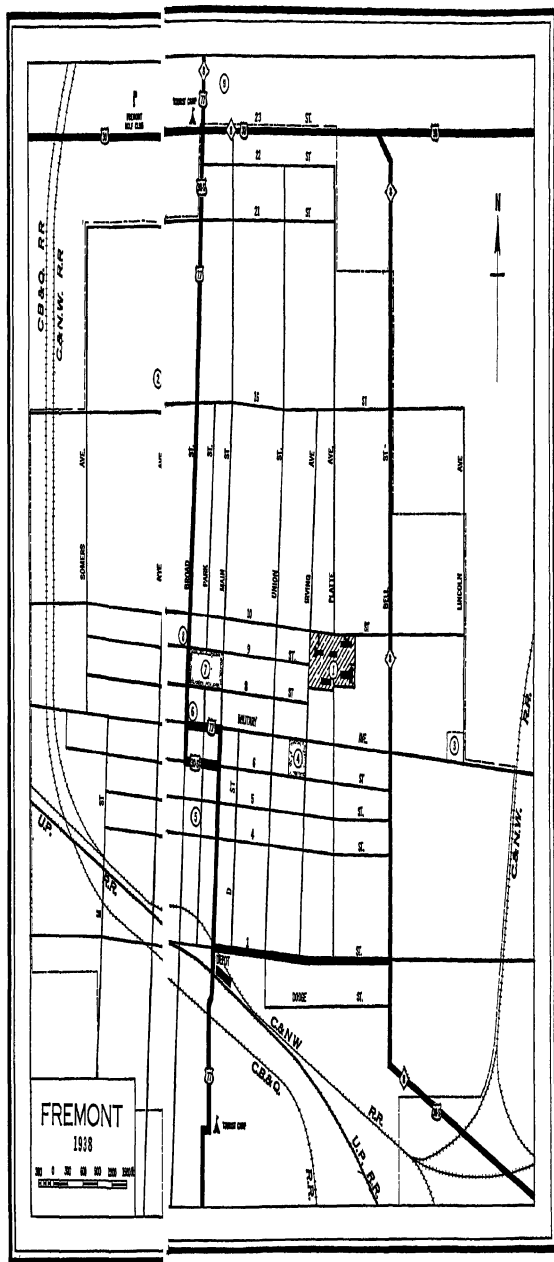
The buildings include Administration Hall, near the college entrance, housing the library, book store, Schools of Business and Fine Arts, and administrative offices; Clemmons Hall, containing science classrooms and laboratories and the college chapel, which has a seating capacity of 600; Beegle Hall, women's fireproof dormitory with accommodations for 80; men's dormitory, which houses 80 men; the gymnasium building, which includes the college kitchen and dining room; and the central heating plant. All the buildings are three-story except the heating plant.

2. The WESTERN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, 1643 N. Nye Ave., is a two-story red brick building of Georgian Colonial design with columns and balcony of yellow stone; it contains 20 rooms. The seminary offers two courses, and graduates a class of students for the ministry each year.

The seminary was removed to Fremont from Atchison, Kansas, together

KEY

1. Midland College
2. Western Theological Seminary
3. Lutheran Orphans' Home
4. Barnard Park
5. Dodge County Court House
6. First Congregational Church
7. City Park
8. Fremont Auditorium
9. Masonic Eastern Star Home for Children



with Midland College, with which it is connected. Originally housed in one of the Midland College buildings, the seminary was removed in 1921 to its present site.

3. The LUTHERAN ORPHANS' HOME, 1544 E. Military Ave., established in 1892, is a three-story red brick building, in the center of 14 acres of gardens, lawns, and playgrounds. The children are educated in a Christian Day School nearby.

4. BARNARD PARK, E. 6th St. between Irving and Clarkson Aves., formerly called Dead Man's Park, was the cemetery of the pioneer settlers. When the cemetery became too small to serve the city, the bodies were moved to Ridge Cemetery. Since many of the graves were not marked, a number of the bodies were left. In the center of the grounds is a fountain surrounded by flowers. Accommodations are available for picnickers and there is a playground for children.

5. The DODGE COUNTY COURTHOUSE (*open 8-5 weekdays*), 435 N. Park St., a four-story, gray limestone structure, stands on the site of an old sawmill near the banks of the Platte River. Much of the original courthouse was destroyed by fire in 1867 and valuable records were lost; a new courthouse, which cost more than \$160,000, was built in 1887. In 1915 this structure also burned with loss of records, and the present seat of county government was built on the same site.

6. The FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, NE. corner Broad St. and Military Ave., an L-shaped stucco building, houses the earliest church organization in Dodge County. On November 2, 1856, it held its first service. The original frame structure, erected about 1885, has been remodeled, the alterations including the removal of the top of the spire and excavation of a basement.

7. CITY PARK, Main St. between 8th and 9th Sts., was planned when the town was laid out. There is a monument honoring Abraham Lincoln and one commemorating Fremont soldiers killed in the World War. Band concerts are held weekly throughout the summer months. The playground is a recreational center for children.

8. FREMONT AUDITORIUM BUILDING (*open weekdays*), NW. corner 9th and Broad Sts., a two-story red brick structure (three stories on front) with little ornamentation, was completed in 1937 at a cost of \$133,000. The main auditorium, with six entrances, contains about 9,000 square feet of floor space and seats 3,500. Its hard maple floor permits its use for dancing and for basketball, and the heavy concrete construction of the outside edges supports heavy machinery when the auditorium is used as an exposition hall. The stage, 52 by 38 feet, is equipped with a modern switchboard, border lights and footlights. Municipal offices are housed in the building.

9. The MASONIC EASTERN STAR HOME FOR CHILDREN (*open 9-9 daily*), 2425 N. Main St., consists of five modern brick buildings and a farmhouse, occupying 57 acres of farm land, orchard, and garden. The home is conducted for orphaned children of Masons and Eastern Star members. A staff of about a dozen persons cares for the children, who live

in the home and attend the Fremont schools. The farm supplies fresh food for the home.

POINTS OF INTEREST IN ENVIRONS

Pawnee Council Rock, 3.9 *m* ; Major Long Monument, 5 7 *m.*; Cedar Bluffs, 8.2 *m* (*see Tour 2*); Fremont Recreation Grounds, 4 *m.* (*see Tour 8*).

Grand Island

Railroad Stations: Pine and Wheeler Sts., N. of Front St., for Union Pacific R.R., St. Joseph & Grand Island Ry.; E. 6th and Plum Sts., for Chicago, Burlington & Quincy R.R.

Bus Stations: Koehler Hotel, Front and Locust Sts., for Interstate Transit Lines, Yellow Diamond Lines. Stratton Hotel, 1st and Locust Sts., for Burlington Transportation Company.

Airport: Municipal Airport, 15 m. N. of E. end of E. 7th St. for United Air Lines. Taxi fare 70¢.

Taxis: 25¢ for 24 blocks, 5¢ each additional half mile.

Traffic Regulations: 25 m. per hour in residential districts; 15 m. on non-arterial streets, 12 m. in congested districts

Accommodations: Five hotels, eight tourist camps.

Information Service: Chamber of Commerce, 315½ N. Locust St.; YWCA, 112 N. Wheeler St.

Theaters and Motion Picture Houses: Two theaters; five motion picture houses.

Baseball: Burnett Ball Park, on US 30, E. of Burlington viaduct on E. 2d St.

Swimming: The Pier, 500 block on S. Pine St.

Golf: Fairview Club, 1 m. N. of Soldiers and Sailors Home, 18 holes, greens fee 25¢.

GRAND ISLAND (1,861 alt., 18,041 pop.), north of the Platte River, spreads out on a gradual slope that rises from the broad bottomlands of the valley. It is a good example of a town that was made by its position—on a railroad near the center of the State and Nation. Without the advantages of its location Grand Island might still have been only another trading-post for farmers: as it is, the city is a railroad distribution point and a manufacturing center of some importance. This geographic position accounts for Grand Island's popularity as a convention town: the place is forever being decorated with flags and placards ("Welcome Sheriffs," "Welcome Odd Fellows," "Welcome D.A.R.") and swarms of delegates mill around in the hotel lobbies. The horse and mule market here, the thing for which most Nebraska farmers know Grand Island, grew to importance largely because of the city's intermediate position between the stock raisers of the Northwest and the stock buyers of the South.

The streets of Grand Island cut off at angles from the highway, whereas in most Nebraska towns they run north-south and east-west, in the conventional manner. The reason for the irregularity is significant: the oldest streets were laid out parallel with the railroad tracks. Grand Island began early in its history to be dominated by the railway, and today there are few towns in Nebraska where "the other side of the tracks" has greater meaning.

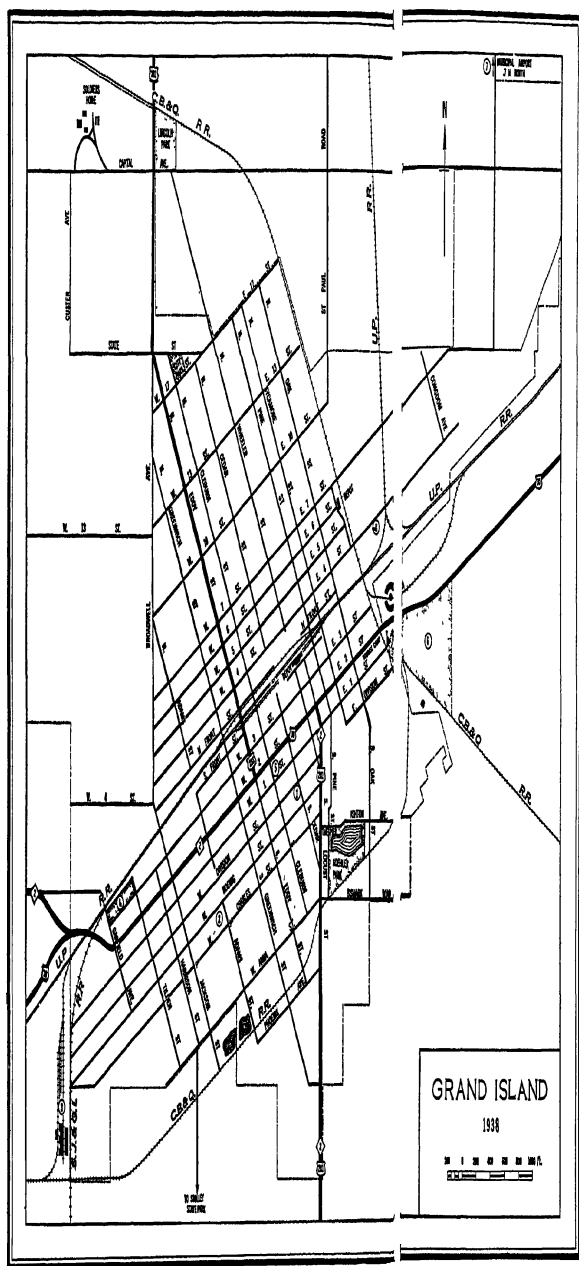
Crossing the town from southwest to northeast is like traversing a cross-

section of local history. South of the tracks are most of the elements in Grand Island that represent respectability, tradition, and small-town life: the courthouse, many of the churches and schools, and the better residences. There are fine white houses built by well-to-do early citizens, who made their money from farming, trade, or the professions in pioneer times. Closer to the tracks are the stores, hotels, and the rest of the principal business districts. The streets are narrow here, exemplifying the economy and thrift of the early German settlers; some of the buildings show the predilection of the nineties for elaborate architecture. In general the business district is the creation of small business men who succeeded the pioneers, bringing increased competition, civic consciousness, and other complications into the town's way of living. North of the tracks, and on both sides at the eastern edge of town, is a later development—the industrial. In this area are the factories, a mill, and the roundhouse. Here also, facing the tracks, are dingy tenements where washing is hung out to dry on lines strung along the porches; and farther out is the dismal expanse called Foggy Bottoms, with its rows of shacks and cheap frame houses where the poorer white and Negro working men live. Farther northeast, on the edge of town, is the airport, representing the most advanced medium of transportation.

After dark, a conspicuous feature of the city's downtown area is the peculiar bluish quality of the street lights—mercury-vapor lamps, installed in 1936. Grand Island was the first town in the United States to use this type of lighting.

The present city of Grand Island dates from 1866, when the Union Pacific laid out a town along the railroad tracks. The name of the town and some of the earliest buildings were transferred from an earlier settlement farther south, which was founded in 1857 on the bank of the Platte opposite a long island known to early French-Canadian trappers as *La Grande Ile*. The idea of starting the first settlement originated with a group of men in Davenport, Iowa, who believed that a town in the Platte Valley might eventually become an important railway junction point, and that because of its central position the National Capital probably would be moved there (*see HISTORY*). Most of the citizens of Davenport regarded the undertaking as rash, but the promoters persuaded more than thirty persons—most of them Germans—to undertake the venture. The party arrived at the island in July 1857; more settlers came in 1858, and most of them were able to make a good living, chiefly by selling farm products to immigrants going West. The promoters, however, were so hard hit by the financial panic of 1857, and had so many disagreements with the settlers, that they backed out of the enterprise and lost the several thousand dollars they had invested in the project.

In 1859 a gold-hunter passing through the settlement on his way east from Colorado set fire to the grass because he hated Germans, and all houses but one were burned. Citizens of Omaha made up a purse for the sufferers in Grand Island, and the community was gradually rebuilt. Ill fortune attended a number of the early settlers and promoters: one died



KEY

- 1 Roman Catholic Cathedral
- 2 St. Francis Hospital
- 3 American Crystal Sugar Co Plant
- 4 Memorial Park
- 5 Pioneer Park
- 6 Burnett Park
- 7 Grand Island Airport
- 8 Livestock Commission Co. Market

in the poorhouse, one shot himself, another took strychnine, and one was run over by a train.

In the spring of 1860 William Stolley began what was one of the first tree cultures in the State. The 6,000 small trees planted on his claim formed the nucleus of the Stolley State Park (*see Tour 4*). Although the Indians had given the settlers little trouble up to that time, Stolley began to build a fortified log house near his own farmhouse. In 1864 the Indians' growing hostility made it necessary to hasten completion of the unfinished Fort Independence. The settlers also fortified the O. K. Store, in the eastern part of the settlement.

In 1866 the Union Pacific Railroad reached the vicinity of the settlement, and the movement of stores and houses to the new town site was begun. A post office was established, flour mills started up, and a Land Office was opened. It was not until 1873, however, that Grand Island was incorporated as a town. Before that time it had been known as Grand Island Station.

During the late eighties and early nineties Grand Island had a horse-and-mule-power streetcar system. Although this means of transportation was popular, particularly during annual reunions of the Grand Army of the Republic, the backers went bankrupt and the line was discontinued.

Grand Island today is a freight division point on the Union Pacific Railroad, maintaining local car repair shops and supply departments which give employment to more than 300 men. Four large wholesale houses, dealing in groceries, fruits, and notions, employ some 150 persons. There are three bakeries, a candy company, three laundries, a lard-rendering company, and a laboratory manufacturing serum for hog cholera. Among the important industrial concerns are a creamery, a flour mill, a piston ring factory, and a wire fence factory. The city has a daily newspaper, the *Grand Island Independent*.

Grand Island is the birthplace of Henry Fonda, stage and screen actor, and of Grant Reynard, the artist, and is the home of Jake Eaton, "champion gum chewer of the world," said to be capable of chewing 300 sticks at a time.

POINTS OF INTEREST

1. The GRAND ISLAND CATHEDRAL (Roman Catholic), SW. corner Cedar and Division Sts., is one of the newer buildings in Grand Island, constructed in 1928. It was designed in Tudor Gothic style by Brinkman and Hagam, architects, of Emporia, Kansas. The exterior is of buff Indiana limestone, and the clerestory and roof are supported by a steel framework. The seating capacity of the nave is 900, that of the basement chapel 300. Statues of the four evangelists surround the canopy of the main altar, and at the four side altars are statues dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, St. Joseph, St. Francis of Assisi, and St. Francis de Sales. A stained-glass window installed in the choir loft cost \$6,000. The \$10,000 pipe organ was manufactured by the Reuter Company of Lawrence, Kansas. A relic of the Holy Cross, presented to Father Wolfe, deceased, is the property of the church.



CATHEDRAL, GRAND ISLAND

2. The ST. FRANCIS HOSPITAL, 1310 W. Charles St., is a large fire-proof red brick building conducted by the Sisters of St. Francis Seraph of Perpetual Adoration. It has a modern X-ray therapy department. The hospital was opened in 1887.

3. The AMERICAN CRYSTAL SUGAR COMPANY PLANT (*Tours 1-4 weekdays during season, late summer, early fall*), end of W. Koenig St., was one of the first beet-sugar factories in the United States. In February 1873 the Grand Island *Independent* published a description of the beet-sugar industry in Europe, in which reference was made to the growing of beets in Nebraska. It was not until 1887 that the soil was tested and found adaptable to the culture of sugar beets; seed was imported from France and Germany, and \$100,000 was raised by subscription for the new factory.

The factory grounds cover 80 acres, with good railroad facilities. The original machinery was shipped from Germany, Austria, and France. In the beginning the factory handled only 4,500 tons of beets in a season though figures of the late 1930's ran as high as 88,000 tons. One ton of beets averages about 250 pounds of sugar. Price per ton ranges from \$4.50 to \$6.50 for the beets, and an average of 20 million pounds of sugar is made in one season.

The average number employed is 325; the plant operates 24 hours with

three eight-hour shifts and has never closed its doors. Beets grown in the Platte Valley from Grand Island to Cozad are used.

4. MEMORIAL PARK, W. 3d St., between Tilden St. and Garfield Ave., made from an old dumping ground, has an area of two and three-fourths acres. Many trees bear names of Hall County's World War dead, and the park itself is named in their memory.

5. PIONEER PARK, W. 2d St., between S. Cleburn and S. Elm Sts., was the original site of the Hall County courthouse. When the old courthouse was abandoned, the park was established as a memorial to the pioneers.

6. BURNETT PARK, E. 2d St., across from the Union Pacific shops, is operated by the Union Pacific Athletic Club for the benefit of members. The park is used for carnivals, small circuses, outdoor gatherings, and athletics, and has a lighting and loudspeaking system. The investment represents an expenditure of \$10,000.

7. The GRAND ISLAND AIRPORT, 1.5 m. N. of E. end of E. 7th St., replaced the old airport at the eastern end of Fourth and Seventh Streets. This field, 640 acres in area, was originally five district farms. Constructed by WPA labor at a cost of \$302,000, it is one of the finest and best-equipped airports in the country.

8. The LIVESTOCK COMMISSION CO. MARKET (*open; livestock sales Mon. and Wed., 11 a.m.*), E. 4th St. between C.B.&Q. Railroad and Union Pacific R.R. tracks, is a series of red buildings along both sides of the street, one on the north side being topped with the wooden figure of a running horse. This market is an outstanding commercial center in Grand Island, and is a meeting place for mule buyers of the Deep South and mule raisers of the Northwest. Inside the barns, the high roofs, the long rows of stalls, and the great stacks of baled hay give an air of spaciousness and depth. There is a semicircular sales arena where the animals are shown to buyers, and rows of seats rise above it in curved tiers, providing space for more than 500 people. Auctioneers drone out bids as horses or mules are led in singly or in pairs, and bidding and buying goes on until the supply of animals is sold. Cattle, sheep, and hogs are usually put on the block on Mondays. The area around the market is dominated by "stockmen's cafés," rooming houses, and other businesses subsidiary to the livestock trade.

POINTS OF INTEREST IN THE ENVIRONS

Fort Independence, 2.5 m., Stolley State Park, 2.5 m., Campbell Graves, 14.8 m., Martin Farm, 21.4 m. (*see Tour 4*), Site of Gottsch-Tramm Massacre, 7.2 m. (*see Tour 8*); U. S. Monitoring Station, 5.5 m. (*see Tour 10*).

Hastings

Railroad Stations: 202 S. Lincoln Ave., for Chicago & North Western Ry., Missouri Pacific R.R.; 501 W. 1st St., for Chicago, Burlington & Quincy R.R.; 110 W. 3d St., for Union Pacific R.R. St. Joseph & Grand Island Ry.

Bus Station: Union Bus Depot, 318 W. 3d St., for Burlington Trailways, United Motor Ways, Yellow Diamond Lines.

Airport: Municipal, 1½ m. W. on 12th St. No scheduled service.

Taxis: 15¢ first 15 blocks

Traffic Regulations: Congested district, 20 m. per hour; outside congested district, 30 m.

Information Service: Chamber of Commerce, 635½ W. 2d St.

Accommodations: Five hotels; two tourist camps.

Theaters and Motion Picture Houses: Two theaters, three motion picture houses. *Baseball:* League Park, Oswego and 5th Sts.; Harm Recreational Park, Delaware Ave and South St.

Swimming: Hastings Amusement Park.

Tennis: City Courts, Burlington Ave. and 12th St., seven courts; two free.

Golf: Hillside Golf Club, 1½ m. S. of city; greens fee 50¢.

Annual Events: Show of Progress, spring; Music Festival, May; Adams County Fair, last week in August.

HASTINGS (1,932 alt., 15,490 pop.), the fourth largest city of Nebraska, seat of Adams County, is in the central South Platte region. In the heart of the great Kansas-Nebraska wheat belt, the town depends largely upon the soil for its existence, though it also possesses numerous other industries and a college.

The city skyline is accented on the north by the tall silver-colored smokestack of the Municipal Electric Light and Power Plant, which sells power to local residents at a rate 50 percent lower than the average of all American cities, and on the south by the tall smokestacks of brick and tile plants, with smaller stacks, elevator towers, buildings, and spires protruding above the trees. The residential districts extend to the northwest, east and south, separated from each other by railroad tracks. Second Street, the main thoroughfare, extends through the city from east to west, flanked by square buildings with elaborate and bulky cornices and modern stores. The dominant tone of Hastings is that of a prosperous Middle Western town.

Hastings is the home of Carolyn Renfrew, writer; of Barney Pearson, known as "Colonel Idaho Bill," who was a friend of Buffalo Bill, and who captured wild animals with a lariat; and the home town of Adam Breede, author, explorer, and archeologist.

Late in 1870 a group of Englishmen, lured by the propaganda of immigration societies, came to what is now Adams County. A majority took



FARMSTEADER'S SON WITH PRIZE 4-H CLUB CALF, FAIRBURY

homesteads in the vicinity where Hastings now stands. Among them was Walter Micklen, and upon his homestead the original town site of Hastings was laid out in 1872.

In 1872 the town marked the western terminus of the St. Joseph and Denver Railroad and was named for the man who graded the last section of the railroad into the struggling village. The Burlington Railroad later developed the town into a division point on the line between Chicago and Denver.

In 1873 the *Hastings Journal* was established, and immediately advocated the removal of the county seat from Juniata to Hastings, thus precipitating a fight that continued until the question was submitted to a vote in 1877. Hastings won by a decisive majority, but did not actually secure the county seat until a group of citizens went by night to Juniata, loaded the records into lumber wagons and raced back to Hastings.

Thereafter Hastings grew rapidly. Farms were broken up and sold, and

unreclaimed land was made to produce. Farmers came to Hastings to do business. One of its first industries was established in 1878 to meet the demand for farm machinery. A disastrous fire in 1879 started a building boom.

The lull in the market in 1887 and the droughts of the 1890's were followed by the panic of 1893. With the turn of the century, however, came a restoration of farming and business profits, increased by the World War; and from 1920 to 1930, Hastings' industrial growth and steady advances in other fields brought about an increase in population.

Today the small industries may be divided into four classes: food, automobiles, machinery, and building materials. Seventy percent of the brick used in the State is made from brick clay of this region. Hastings also manufactures windmills, haying equipment, grain bins, stock feeders, and other farm implements. Surrounded by a fine agricultural section, the city has important flour and feed mills, and creameries, and is known for its cooked meat specialties. The Jerusalem artichoke was developed in the Hastings area by Fred G. Johnson, and is used as a vegetable, as feed for stock, and in the manufacture of fuel alcohol.

POINTS OF INTEREST

1. The MASONIC TEMPLE (*open*), NW. corner of 4th St. and Hastings Ave., is a light tan brick building with stone trim and arched entrance, three and one-half stories high. A large lobby, luxurious lodge rooms, a combination dining room and ballroom, and an auditorium seating 1,000, are outstanding features. It is one of the few Masonic temples in the country owned and used by all the various Masonic bodies.

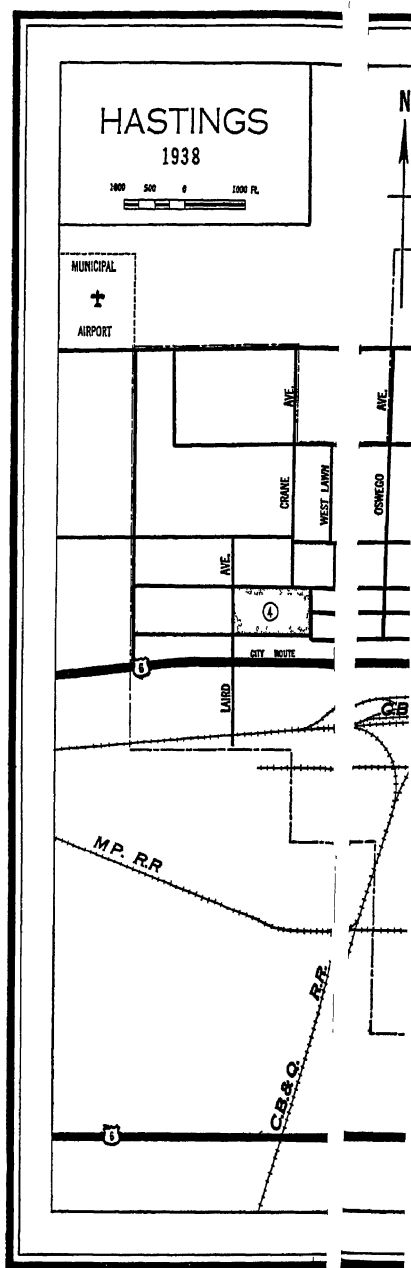
2. ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL, SE. corner of 5th and Burlington Ave., designed by Ralph Adams Cram, was built at a cost of \$165,000. The building is of stone in simple, dignified thirteenth century English Gothic style. In the center of the ornamental screens behind the altar, with statues of St. Mark and St. John occupying niches on either side, is a wood carving of Da Vinci's *Last Supper* executed by Alois Lang, of Oberammergau, Bavaria.

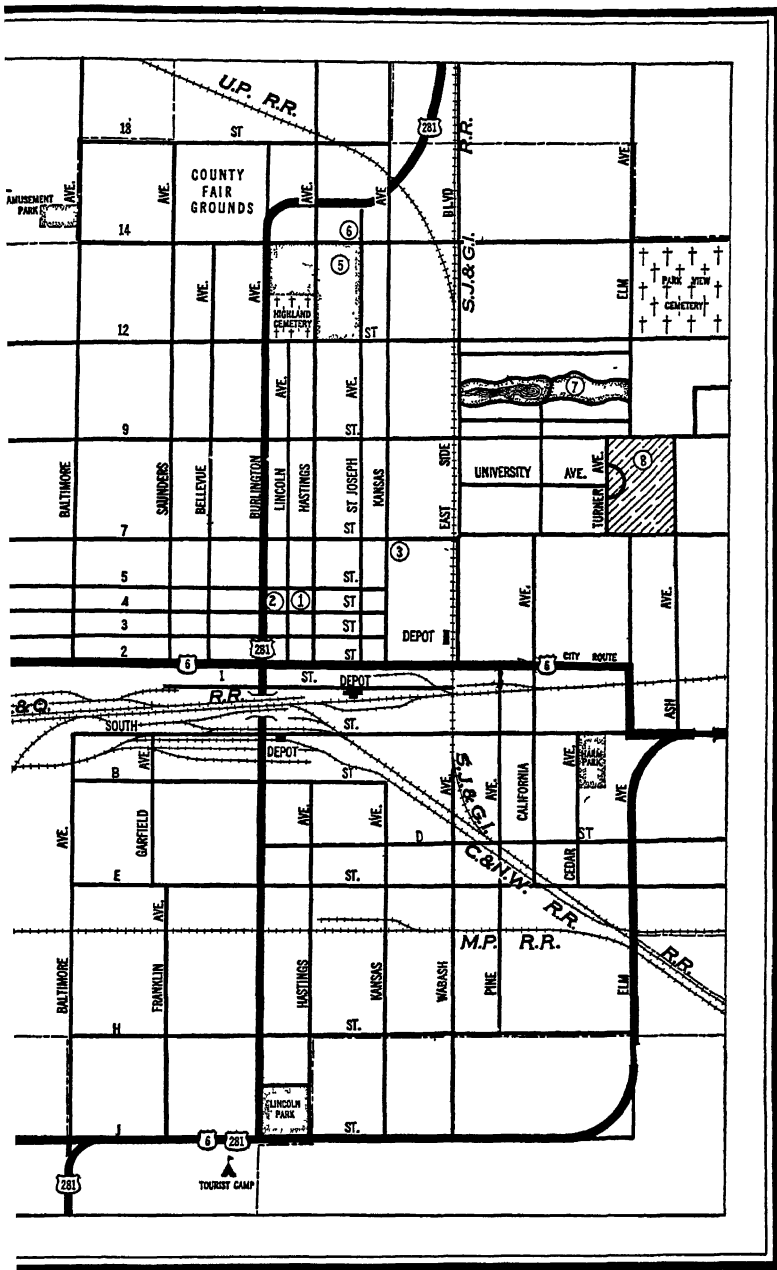
3. ST. CECILIA'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, SE. corner 7th St. and Kansas Ave., constructed of brown Persian tapestry brick, is of Gothic design. The church was dedicated December 22, 1912; its cost was \$70,000, including the organ. It is distinguished from most buildings of its type by the absence of obstructing columns between the nave and the side aisles. From the vaulted ceiling, at the place where columns are ordinarily used, hang pendants which form a part of the indirect lighting system.

4. PROSPECT PARK, 3d St. between Laird and Woodland Aves., extending to 5th St., occupies 24 acres, landscaped with rock garden and pool. It has a pavilion with a seating capacity of 2,839, used for concerts and plays. Forty-eight-hour camping is permitted in the western section of the park. There are outdoor brick ovens, a cabin with shower bath and a range, a shelter house with a large fireplace and rest rooms, wading pool, and bathhouse for children.

KEY

1. The Masonic Temple
2. St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral
3. St. Cecilia's Catholic Church
4. Prospect Park
5. Highland Park
6. Sunnyside
7. Heartwell Park
8. Hastings College





5. HIGHLAND PARK, 12th St. between Burlington and St Joseph Aves. extending to 14th St., is commonly called City Park. The 40-acre tract is landscaped and has benches, swings, slides, tennis courts, and picnic facilities. It is the oldest park in Hastings; the land was bought by the city from the Union Pacific before 1876. The JACOB FISHER RAINBOW FOUNTAIN, at the 12th Street entrance to the park, has eight combinations of water jets and twelve combinations of lights, used to produce varied forms and effects. In the south central portion of the park are the MEMORIAL ELMS, each tree dedicated to the memory of an Adams County soldier who died in the World War.

The HASTINGS CITY MUSEUM, NW. corner Highland Park, not yet completed (1938), will house the collection formerly contained in the old Morton School building at 5th St. and Saunders Ave. The old building was razed to supply brick for the new three-story structure. The museum contains 167,000 specimens of biological and historical interest. It specializes in the fauna and culture of the Great Plains region and possesses exhibits of Indian and pioneer relics, historical material, and fossils.

6. SUNNYSIDE (*open*), home for the elderly, NW. corner 14th St. and Hastings Ave., a two-story frame structure, was built in 1914 by members of the Hastings Women's Club. In January 1916 the house burned, and a new home was built immediately; rooms were named in honor of those who donated money for the new building. The Wiebke Frahm addition in 1921, and the \$20,000 infirmary wing (brick) built in 1931, make the institution completely modern. It houses 28 women and 10 men, whose average age is approximately 70 years.

7. HEARTWELL PARK, Forest Blvd. between East Side Blvd. and Elm Ave., extending to Lakeside Drive, is a favorite resort for picnickers. The park was acquired by the city about 1900. A dam across a ravine forms HEARTWELL LAKE by storing water from the street drainage system. The lake is used for skating in winter. The park has many shade trees, tables, benches, outdoor ovens, and there are swings, a wading pool, and a shelter house.

8. HASTINGS COLLEGE (*open*), Turner Ave. between 7th and 9th Sts., has nine principal buildings on an 82-acre campus. The brick buildings are in informal arrangement facing a central walk that extends in a north and south direction from 7th to 9th St. The buildings east of the central walk are: McCormick Hall, completed in 1883, named for the inventor, Cyrus McCormick, who donated \$8,000 toward its construction; Ringland Hall, built in 1884, similar in construction to McCormick; a library; and the gymnasium, a solid brick building 100 by 109 feet, capable of seating 1,200 persons. Also east of the central walk, on 9th St., are the Domestic Science Building and the Williams' Bible House, both of stucco. West of the walk are Alexander Hall, erected in 1905 and named for one of the founders of the college, which provides dormitory accommodations for young women; and Taylor Dining Hall. At the north corner of 7th St. and Elm Ave., is Bellevue House, a frame structure formerly the Hastings Country Club, added to the campus in 1937. The president's residence is at 202 9th St., three blocks west of the campus.

The college was endorsed by the first meeting of the Synod of Nebraska, Presbyterian church, held at Nebraska City, in October 1873. The first classes were conducted in rooms above the post office in 1882, the first faculty consisting of five instructors, including Dr. W. F. Ringland, pastor of the first Presbyterian church of Hastings and first president of the college. Forty-four students were enrolled. The present faculty averages 50 members, instructing a student body of 1,000

The LIBRARY (*open 8-12, 1-5, 7-9 weekdays; 8-12, 1-5 Sat.*) is a tan brick building completed in 1908, a gift of Andrew Carnegie. Occupying four rooms on the lower floor, is the COLLEGE MUSEUM. Collections include species of United States birds, specimens of rocks and ores; mounted animals; ethnological material and collections from Hawaii, the Philippine Islands, Korea, and other countries. The paleontological collection includes specimens unearthed in Nebraska.

POINTS OF INTEREST IN ENVIRONS

Campbell Dunlap Graves, 15.6 m. (*see Tour 4*), Nebraska State Hospital, Ingle-side, 1 m. (*see Tour 9*).

Lincoln

Railroad Stations · Union Station, 7th and P Sts., for Burlington and Union Pacific Lines; 20th and O Sts. for Rock Island R.R., 9th and S Sts. for Chicago & North Western, Missouri Pacific R.R.

Airports: Municipal, 4 m. NW. on State 2, taxi fare \$1; Union, 56th St. and Union Airport Road, 7 m. NE from downtown, taxi fare \$1 30; Arrow, 4 m. from downtown on N. 48th St., taxi fare \$1, no scheduled service.

Bus Stations · Union Bus Depot, 320 S. 13th St., for Interstate Transit Lines, Santa Fe Trailways, 320 N. 11th St. for Burlington Transportation Company, Missouri Pacific Transportation Company.

Taxis: 12 blocks, 25¢.

Streetcars: Fare 10¢.

Local Busses: Fare 10¢.

Traffic Regulations: Speed limit 25 m.p.h. on arterial streets and boulevards, 20 in residential districts, 15 in congested traffic districts and school zones; for left turns take left traffic lane

Street Numbering: Streets running north and south are numbered, east and west lettered "O" is principal thoroughfare, from which numbering begins.

Accommodations: 10 hotels, wide range of rates; boarding houses; tourist camps, municipal tourist camp, 24th and Randolph Sts., camping privileges

Information Service: Lincoln Auto Club, 1228 M St.; Chamber of Commerce, 208 N. 11th St.

Radio Stations: KFAB (770 kc.); KFOR (1210 kc.)

Theaters and Motion Picture Houses: Temple Theater, University Players and occasional road shows, Nebraska, vaudeville and pictures; eight motion picture houses

Athletic Centers: Coliseum, University of Nebraska campus; Stadium, U. of N. campus, Landis Field, 200 W. P St., 4-H Club Building, Fairgrounds.

Swimming: Municipal Pool, 23rd and M Sts

Playground: Municipal, 23rd and M Sts.

Tennis: Municipal Courts, 23rd and M Sts., 28th and A Sts.; South St. and Normal Blvd., fee 25¢.

Golf: Municipal Links, Pioneers Park, Van Dorn St. to Pioneers Blvd., Burlington St. west, 18 holes, fee 25¢, Sat and Sun. 50¢.

Amusement Park: Capitol Beach, W. R St.

Annual Events: Beaux Arts Ball, Nebraska Art Exhibition, Mar., Ivy Day, Farmers' Fair, Flower Show, Nebraska Writers' Guild Meeting, May; Butchers' and Grocers' Picnic, Aug.; Nebraska State Fair, Fall Display Night, Sept.; State Historical Society Meeting, Native Sons and Daughters Meeting; opening of "Cornhusker" football season, Oct., Lincoln Art Exhibition, Christmas Parade, Nov.; Military Ball, Christmas Oratorio, Organized Agriculture Week, Dec.

LINCOLN (1,148 alt., 79,592 pop.), the capital city of Nebraska, is predominantly an educational center. It is situated in the southeastern part of the State about 50 miles west of the Missouri River, completely filling the shallow basin, elliptical in shape, which is traversed by Salt Creek and its tributaries—Rock Creek, Oak Creek, Middle Creek, Antelope Creek and

Stevens Creek. Some of its suburban additions lie among the hills. The valley affords a natural protection against tornadoes, which skirt the city but seldom hit it directly. Since the changing of the creek channels, floods are unknown. Variation is a marked characteristic of the climate. In summer the mercury occasionally climbs to 110° ; in winter it frequently falls to 10° below zero.

The gleaming white-stone shaft of the State Capitol is visible from the tops of the hills on all approaching highways, and completely dominates the skyline of the city, otherwise broken only by an occasional high building, such as the square red-brick Cornhusker Hotel, the gray stone Stuart Building, or Lincoln's skyscraper, the 17-story white-stone Sharp Building. O Street, once a freighters' trail, but now the main thoroughfare of the city, stretches east and west through the business district, passing the Veterans' Hospital, Wyuka Cemetery, and "Automobile Row" in the eastern part of the city, and the wholesale district in the western. North of the business district, among the trees, are the buildings of the University of Nebraska, city campus; south and east are broad areas of residences with a generous sprinkling of churches and schools of varying architecture.

A large number of Lincoln's inhabitants are concerned either directly or indirectly with State governmental activities or with the support of the colleges and schools. Each fall between 8,000 and 9,000 students come to the colleges of Lincoln, giving a youthful air to the city. The business of providing for them is a major concern of Lincoln restaurants, stores, and rooming houses. In the morning the people on the downtown streets are mainly store clerks, office workers, and students, but in the afternoon housewives doing their shopping predominate. On Saturdays the farmers congregate in the western O Street district, where hardware and implement stores cater to their needs.

But all Lincoln is unavoidably weather-minded, since all its business—even its schools—depends upon the income of the farmers. Although the downtown area possesses a certain metropolitan air, the talk of crops and weather is never-ending on the streets. Every spring the same question arises: will the rain come before the corn is planted, after it has sprouted, or not at all?

The city has no crime problem of any consequence. Few murders have been committed in recent years; the chief offenders against the law are traffic violators and occasional inebriates. Once known as the "Holy City," because it had well over 100 churches, or one for every 700 people, it was avoided by criminals. The city is a religious and educational center rather than an industrial center.

The Lincoln of William Jennings Bryan's day is materially gone. The older buildings are being renovated or torn down and replaced by new structures. But the Lincoln whose social character Bryan exemplified remains. The O Street along which "Old Jules" Sandoz walked in 1905 with an eagle he had killed slung over his shoulder, and with a crowd of small hero worshippers following at his heels, is greatly changed. Old-timers on the streets today can tell almost the complete story of the phenomenal changes Lincoln has undergone. The city is still young; its

age spans only a lifetime. With its modern office buildings, its Capitol, the traffic and bustle of its downtown area, it retains a certain rawness; the prairie remains close upon its borders.

The thing least changed about Lincoln is its social and moral temper, but there are signs that some of the old conservatism is departing. First, there was the lifting of the ban on Sunday movies. Then, in 1936, the Democratic vote began for the first time in many years to approach a balance of power with the Republican vote.

The basin area was surveyed in 1856, and the following year the county was surveyed. The first actual settler of the county was John Prey, who preempted a claim on Salt Creek about 12 miles south of present Lincoln in 1856. Other claims were taken, and in 1859 the settlers met under an elm tree on the east bank of Salt Creek and appointed a committee to determine the county seat. They found the flats glistening with white saline deposits, bordered by a marsh where wild fowl nested, and by prairies where deer and antelope grazed. There were elm and cottonwood trees along the creeks, and scattered fields of sunflowers. The committee chose a site that is now a part of the city of Lincoln, naming it Lancaster for Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. For a number of years, however, Lancaster was only a town on paper.

In 1856 Capt. W. T. Donovan came to the basin as the representative of a salt company. He settled at the mouth of Oak Creek, but soon abandoned his schemes for making a fortune in salt. During the Indian scares of the late fifties he removed to Stevens Creek; in 1861 he returned and settled at Yankee Hill, where he later filed on the first homestead of Lancaster County. The basin was a lively place in the summer of 1861. Two salt boilers, Cox and Peckham, carried on an extensive business. Salt was very expensive, and settlers came from as far as Des Moines, Iowa, to obtain it.

On July 4, 1863, Elder J. M. Young, Rev. Peter Schamp, Dr. J. McKesson, Luke Lavender, and Jacob Dawson arrived at the basin. Elder Young was looking for a site for a Methodist colony and wanted to establish a female seminary. After a careful inspection of the surrounding country, he decided on Lancaster. The following year the town was platted and a few cabins erected.

KEY TO LINCOLN MAP

DOWNTOWN AREA

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. The City Hall. | 6. Lincoln City Library. |
| 2. United States Courthouse and Postoffice. | 7. St. Paul Methodist Church. |
| 3. The Municipal Building. | 8. Site of the Lincoln Sanitarium. |
| 4. The University of Nebraska. | 9. Nebraska State Capitol. |
| 5. The Scene of the Lincoln Bank Robbery. | 10. The Lincoln Monument. |
| | 11. Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. |
| | 12. Lancaster County Courthouse. |

Shortly after the founding of Lancaster, the neighboring settlement of Yankee Hill unsuccessfully contested its choice as county seat. The first term of the Territorial court of the county was held in November 1864 in Jacob Dawson's cabin. Its half-dozen log cabins, its stone seminary, its few frame shacks, were almost lost in the Salt Creek Basin. In 1867, however, the event occurred which changed its history completely. Nebraska was admitted to statehood, and Lancaster was chosen as the State capital.

The seat of government had been in Omaha since 1854. For 13 years dissension and bitterness marked all discussions in the legislature concerning the removal of the capital. Two factions had formed: the North Platters, favoring Omaha; the South Platters, favoring a site south of the river. In 1867 the capital removal bill was enacted and a commission of three members, Gov. David Butler, Thomas P. Kennard, Secretary of State, and John Gillespie, State Auditor, visited Ashland, Yankee Hill, and Lancaster to select the location. On July 29 they definitely announced the choice of Lancaster. In the original draft of the removal bill the name proposed for the new city was "Capital City." Senator Patrick of Omaha moved to amend the bill to read "Lincoln," and the village of Lancaster, designated the capital of the State, was renamed Lincoln.

Early in September 1867 the new city was platted, and lots were offered for sale. Prices of the lots ranged from \$15 to \$150, and total proceeds at the end of the year were approximately \$53,000. Plans were immediately made for the building of a capitol but threats of delay and frustration hung over the enterprise. It was common gossip that the State treasurer, an Omahan, under pressure of the anti-removalists, would impound all money derived from the sale of Lincoln lots. The capitol commissioners prevented this by acting as their own bursars, and the building was erected, although with a certain amount of inefficiency and waste. The structure, of conventional design, was ready for occupancy early in December 1868. A few days later all State-owned books, documents, and office furnishings were removed from the former Capitol at Omaha to Lincoln in covered wagons and in the dead of night for fear the transfer would be resisted by an armed force of Omahans.

On August 26, 1867, the three founders of Lincoln filed the plat of the city. On the same day they incorporated the "State Historical and Library Association," and dedicated to it a block of land which was known for many years as the "Historical Block." This association thus became the first State institution in Nebraska.

Throughout 1867 investors and business men were hesitant about risking their money in a town that might not be the capital for long. When selected as the capital site, the village had about 30 inhabitants. A year later the population was 500. The 1868 tide of prosperity brought the town its first bank, newspaper, jail, tailoring establishment, barber shop, lumberyard, livery stable, and clothing, harness, and drug stores. The followers of Elder Young built the first Methodist church. During this year the wooden bridge over Salt Creek, at the foot of O Street, collapsed when a herd of 1,000 Texas longhorns passed over it. The town officials attempted immediately to call upon the owner of the herd to collect damages, but



AIRVIEW, LINCOLN

they were routed by the cattle; later, herd and owner were gone and no indemnity was ever collected.

The most lively spot in Lincoln at that time was Market Square, now (1938) Postoffice Square. The square surmounted a natural knoll, flanked by squat, false-front business houses, and served as a camping place for immigrants with their covered wagons, horses, and cattle. It was also a favorite hang-out for land sharks, horse traders, and tin-horn gamblers throughout the days of settlement.

The legislature, meeting for the first time at the new Capitol in 1869, authorized land grants to encourage railroad construction in the State; the first railroad to reach Lincoln was the Burlington & Missouri River line from Plattsmouth, in 1870. Before that, stage lines operated through Lincoln, and the Wells Fargo Company of San Francisco had been handling the city's overland express since 1868.

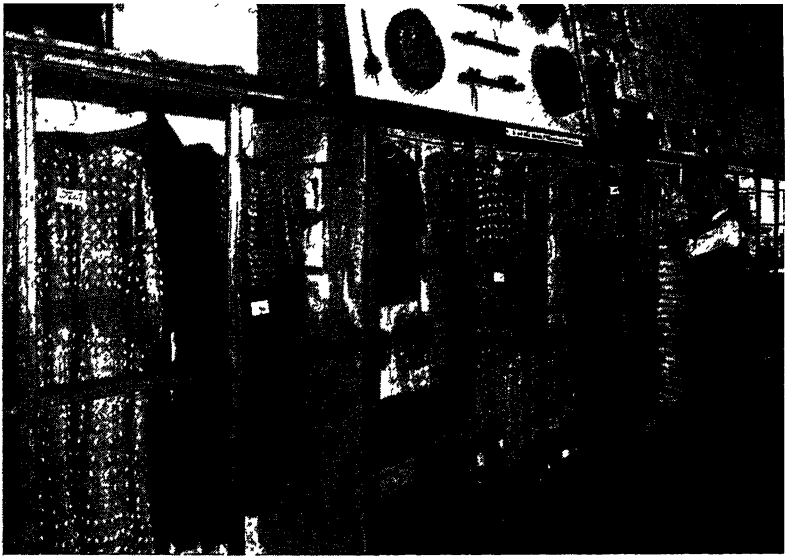
The same legislature passed the bill establishing the University of Nebraska. The cornerstone of the first building, University Hall, was laid during the fall of 1869. By 1870 the population of Lincoln was 2,500. The sale of city lots increased and there was a boom in private and public building; the State erected a penitentiary and an asylum. There was still much interest in the commercial possibilities of the saline springs. A superstition persisted that they were part of a great underground ocean, with tides twice a day. Wells were sunk more than 1,000 feet and the waters that gushed out were found to have medicinal properties. As late as 1872

deer, coyotes, and other wild animals were killed within city limits. Prairie chickens and quail abounded on the neighboring prairie.

Lincoln experienced its first major depression between 1871 and 1876. Soon after the impeachment of Governor Butler, in 1871, the legality of moving the capital was questioned. Although the legality was soon established, the controversy tended to discourage land sales and private enterprise, and upset property values. The grasshopper years of 1873-1876 were another cause of hard times. During this scourge lots were sold for the lowest prices in the town's history, merchants lost their trade, and many settlers returned to the East. Despite hard times the city grew. The high school was completed in 1873, two years after the University of Nebraska opened its doors. Public utilities had their start and gas lights were introduced, but the city still bore the stamp of the frontier. Emigrant wagons passed through the city, as many as 30 in a day camping in Market Square. Saloons flourished, also houses of gambling and prostitution. In 1874 the Women's Temperance Union was organized to root out these evils, and while the success of these crusaders was almost inversely proportionate to their ardor, the movement they launched exerted a moral influence on the citizenry. From the time of the first temperance crusade until national prohibition, the wet-dry struggle proved the leading issue in the political life of the city.

In the 1880's the city had its greatest growth. Its population increased from 14,000 to 40,000. A telephone exchange, water system, sewerage system, and street railway were established; streets were paved with cedar blocks, and later resurfaced with bricks; other railroad lines extended to the city. There was a growth of small industries. Stockyards and two packing plants were built. Large eastern packing companies sent representatives to purchase land in Lincoln for branch plants, but as the cost of the land was prohibitive, the representatives purchased land in Omaha and the resulting competition of the large companies with the small Lincoln firms caused the liquidation of the latter. A last effort was made to manufacture salt by sinking a well more than 2,000 feet; but this, like all previous efforts, proved a disappointment. Nevertheless, money flowed freely and many of the enterprising citizens grew wealthy. Solid business blocks, beautiful residences, and a score of public improvements appeared. Patrick Egan, an important figure in the Nationalist movement in Ireland, found refuge in Lincoln, and organized an Irish land league. Letters, publications, and funds supporting the cause of Irish freedom went out of the city for years.

In 1887 Lincoln was made a city of the first class. In the election held that year, the candidates of the citizens' reform party were victorious. The newly elected council immediately proceeded to clean up the city. The incumbent police judge was found guilty of misappropriation of city funds and was ousted. The judge filed an affidavit against this action in the Circuit Court of the United States, and the mayor and councilmen were arrested. The case was heard in Omaha and was decided against the council members; the members refused to pay the heavy fines that were imposed, whereupon they were lodged in the Omaha jail. Paroles and pardons were



HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

granted a few days later, and on their return to Lincoln the councilmen were met by a brass band and a cheering, enthusiastic crowd. The United States Supreme Court eventually reversed the decision of the Circuit Court.

As soon as the farm lands were put under cultivation by homesteaders, wagons of grain and produce began to roll into town, market prices fell, and the settlers, who had incurred long-term debts, found themselves in financial bondage. The price of corn dropped to the lowest point since the Civil War and discriminatory freight rates kept the produce off eastern markets. The Nebraska farmers then went political and Lincoln was endlessly embroiled.

In the late 1880's William Jennings Bryan came to Lincoln as a young lawyer and entered politics. He was elected a delegate from Lancaster County to the Democratic State Convention in 1888, only a few months after his arrival in Lincoln. Two years later he was elected to Congress, and in 1896 he was the unsuccessful Democratic candidate for President of the United States. Two other men, living in Lincoln during this period, achieved renown in later years: Charles G. Dawes, who had a law office in the same building as Bryan, and John J. Pershing, who was an instructor in military science at the University of Nebraska.

The development of Lincoln during the last decade of the nineteenth century was mainly along cultural and economic lines. In the environs small communities grew up around Union College, Cotner University, Wesleyan University, Lincoln Normal University, and the Worthington

Military Academy. Enrollment at the University of Nebraska constantly increased and new buildings were erected. In the city were 38 churches, 26 schools, and 13 temperance societies. There were 70 factories, 80 wholesale houses, and 11 banks. Electric trolleys replaced the old horse-drawn streetcars. The city took particular pride in its new opera house—the Lansing—proclaimed the most ornate Romanesque building west of Chicago.

The first years of the twentieth century in Lincoln are bound up with the life and career of William Jennings Bryan. After being for the second time an unsuccessful candidate for the Presidency of the United States, in 1900, Bryan returned to Lincoln and established *The Commoner*, a weekly journal which soon had a circulation of more than 100,000. In 1908 he was again the Democratic nominee for President. He spoke repeatedly at the local church gatherings, picnics, and banquets. To the last he was a radical Democrat in a conservative town. He had two stone lions beside the driveway of his farm home. One had its mouth open, its fangs exposed; this one Bryan called Radicalism. The other had its mouth shut; this he called Conservatism. Bryan moved to Florida in 1916.

At the time of America's entrance into the World War, there were many Lincoln citizens, German by birth or extraction, whose sympathies were with the Central Powers, and consequently there was bitter feeling between pro-Germans and pro-Allies. As late as 1916 students of the University of Nebraska organized to persuade the legislature to abolish compulsory military training, but with America's entrance into the war, the tide turned. Patriotic fervor gripped the city. German names were frowned upon, the German language was tabooed in classrooms, and suspected pro-Germans were carefully watched for evidence of treason. Eight university professors were charged with "lack of aggressive loyalty." A hearing was conducted by the University Board of Regents and the resignation of three of the men requested. To the Red Cross, Liberty Loan drives and other activities, Lincoln citizens contributed generously. Of the county's 3,990 men who donned khaki, 90 were killed.

Lincoln was prosperous following the war. Although there was general labor unrest, little of it touched Lincoln. In 1920 its population was 55,000. There was a great increase in enrollment at schools and colleges. Plans were made for the erection of a new capitol. In 1923 city and suburban building construction totaled nearly five million dollars in value.

With the annexation of the suburbs, Lincoln entered upon a new program of city planning. The construction of boulevards and drives, parks and playgrounds, development of restricted residential areas, planting of trees, and landscaping of lawns, all tended toward a greater and more beautiful city. Streetcars were replaced by busses. The tower of the new Capitol, and the Stuart and Sharp office buildings altered the skyline. Lincoln during the twenties was definitely booming. Then depression and drought came again.

The crisis that started in the East in 1929 became a deadening reality in Lincoln a few years later. The low prices of farm products brought ruin to the farmers. Many business firms failed and the problem of unemployment

became acute. Labor groups in the city made demands for governmental assistance. Farmers marched upon the State Capitol and demanded a moratorium on farm debts. There were many vacant buildings; trade was inactive.

Federal relief agencies were established to relieve unemployment. Federal grants were made for the construction of public works. Slowly the city is reestablishing itself (1938) but the successive years of drouth have retarded recovery.

POINTS OF INTEREST

(Nos. 1-12 See Downtown Area Map)

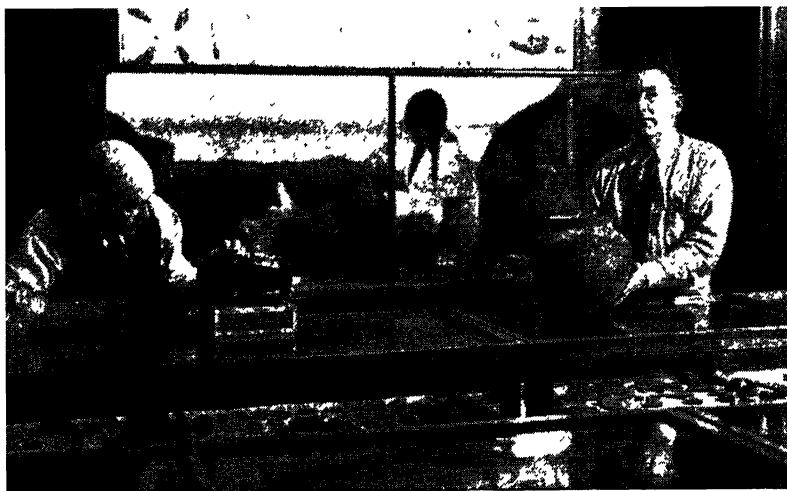
1. The CITY HALL, 930 O St., was formerly the U. S. Postoffice Building. A four-story structure of Gothic design, built of limestone quarried on the Platte River, the old building stands in pleasing contrast with the more recent buildings. In 1873 the plot was transferred by the city to the United States Government and named *Government Square*. Immediately upon its abandonment as a post office in 1906, the building was utilized by the city for its offices. Before the door stands the official milestone of the city, its bronze plate depicting a covered wagon heading eastward. Among the old-timers who loiter about Government Square are many who comment that an eastward-moving wagon can only mean discouragement and failure. The marker was erected in 1926.

2. The UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE AND POST OFFICE, SW. corner 10th and P Sts., a four-story stone structure completed in 1906, was designed in the classical style of the Federal buildings of Washington. It stands with grim dignity amidst the shabby business fronts of 10th and P Sts.

3. The MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 323 N. 10th St., a two-story brick building completed in the spring of 1932, houses Lincoln's fire, police, and health departments, and municipal court. It stands on the block formerly known as Haymarket Square. Bounded by 9th and 10th Sts. and Q and R Sts., this square was the city market place after the transfer of the old market square in 1873 to the Federal Government. Scales were provided here for weighing hay, cattle, and produce. As the town grew, the railroads and stores gradually took away the produce business. The square then provided space for the equipages of country folk and a market for hay. In 1886 a frame building was erected on Haymarket Square. This served as a city hall until 1906.

4. The UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA occupies an area extending from 10th to 14th Sts., and from R to W Streets. The campus presents an orderly appearance with its many tree-shaded walks and formally landscaped flower beds, low shrubs, and hedges. The buildings, all of one general architectural style, Neo-classic, of red brick three stories in height, are arranged on no definite plan, but face R Street, 12th Street, 14th Street, the Quadrangle or the Mall.

In accordance with the Land Grant Act of 1862 and the Enabling Act of 1864, the State legislature established the university on February 16,



HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

1869, by an act that provided for six colleges. The first building was University Hall, completed by January of 1871, built of bricks made locally. Classes began in the fall of the same year with 20 students in attendance. The university has 10 colleges and four schools, with an average enrollment of more than 10,000, and with graduating classes of about 900. The departments on which most emphasis is put are those of Agriculture and Engineering. The university, nevertheless, has supplied a large percentage of the teachers of the State, and its graduates have excelled in many fields, especially in chemistry and engineering.

The UNIVERSITY LIBRARY (*open 7:50 a.m.-10 p.m., Mon.-Thurs., 7:50-6, Fri.-Sat.*), NW. of intersection of 11th and R Sts., was established on January 15, 1869, when the legislature enacted a statute providing for the library, by decreeing that all matriculation fees should be appropriated to its use. The present three-story red brick building was completed in 1895. The collection consists of approximately 300,000 volumes, shelved in 27 different places, including departmental libraries in various campus buildings. The library has one of the finest collections in America on the French Revolution, and a Woodrow Wilson collection of some 1,600 items.

UNIVERSITY HALL, NE. of Library, of red brick, is the oldest building on the campus; its cornerstone was laid in September 1869. Lumber for the building was shipped from Chicago to East Nebraska City, then hauled 65 miles overland to Lincoln by wagon; brick for the building was burned in a kiln on Little Salt Creek. Its doors were first opened to students in the fall of 1871; all the classes were held on the lower floor, the upper



ART DEPARTMENT, MORRILL HALL

two stories serving as a dormitory. For more than 50 years the bell tower of "Old U Hall" overlooked the campus and the city. In 1925 the building was condemned and the two upper stories and the bell tower were razed. The old campus bell is preserved in the museum as a historical relic. Classes are held in the remaining story of the building.

The TEMPLE THEATER, in the Temple Building, SE. corner of 12th and R Sts., is the home of the University Players, Lincoln's only theatrical stock company. The red brick building, with stone trim and columns, cost \$100,000, of which \$66,666 was the gift of John D. Rockefeller, Jr. The University Players, a group composed of instructors and advanced students of dramatic art, present six plays during the school year.

ANDREWS HALL, N. of Quadrangle on 14th St., is a three-story red brick structure completed in 1928, named for E. Benjamin Andrews, chancellor of the university from 1900 to 1908.

In the west end of the building is the office of the *Prarie Schooner*, a literary quarterly that has won national recognition for the quality of its prose and verse. Edited by Lowry Charles Wimberly, it published the first work of such writers as Mari Sandoz, Dorothy Thomas, José Garcia Villa, Jesse Stuart, Albert Halper, Lionel Wiggam, and William March.

MORRILL HALL, 14th and U Sts., N. of Andrews Hall, is the home of the Nebraska State Museum and the art collections of the university Department of Fine Arts.

The NEBRASKA STATE MUSEUM, first floor and basement (*open 8-5 weekdays; 2-5, Sun.*), has a fine collection of fossils and natural history

exhibits. In "Elephant Hall" are many examples of mounted and fossil remains of elephants, including numerous assembled skeletons. In the center of the hall is a life group of two African elephants. The skeleton of the Lincoln County mammoth, the largest species of land mammal inhabiting this continent, stands almost 14 feet high.

The late Adam Breede of Hastings, Nebr., donated an extensive collection of mounted African animals, among them elephants, lions, cape buffalo, zebra, hartebeests, rhinoceroses, hyenas, dik-diks, and giraffe. Murals by Elizabeth Dolan are used as backgrounds for contemporary and fossil animals.

Other exhibits include a bird collection donated by Lawrence Bruner and August Eiche; a display of Philippine relics, placed here by Gen. John J. Pershing; the C. C. Engberg collection of Puget Sound marine invertebrates; and various collections of minerals, rocks, fossils, and meteorites.

THE ART COLLECTIONS, second and third floors (*open 9-5 weekdays, 2-5, Sun., free except during Annual Exhibitions, usually held in March, when 25¢ is charged*), include original paintings by American artists. One of the collections is the property of the university, and is known as the Hall Collection. The other belongs to the Nebraska Art Association, an organization that has been actively interested in the encouragement of art in Nebraska since the late 1890's.

These two collections, worth more than \$350,000, represent a cross section of American art unexcelled in the Middle West. Through the bequest of Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Hall in 1928 the university received a substantial income for the purchase of additional paintings, provisions having been made in the bequest for high standards of selection. The Nebraska Art Association adds constantly to its collections; its practice is to buy at least one painting each year, usually at the time of the annual art exhibition.

Through the bequest of the Halls the university also acquired a number of etchings by Whistler, Pennell, and Rembrandt, and Japanese prints by Hiroshige and Toyokuni. Will C. Gregg, an alumnus of the university, contributed more than 100 prints that he selected from contemporary print exhibitions.

To supplement the permanent collections the fine arts department has a traveling exhibition each month. Gallery A, on the second floor, is usually used for this exhibition.

Facing Memorial Mall on the north is the COLISEUM. Built in 1926, with a seating capacity of 10,000, it is used for university and public activities. Here, annually, the university chorus presents a Christmas Oratorio; in the spring commencement exercises are held; infrequently during the year grand opera, ballet, recitals, and concerts are presented, and political rallies are held.

THE HEAT AND POWER HOUSE, 14th and W Sts., built in 1930, is architecturally the most distinguished building on the campus. In designing the structure, the architects, Ellery Davis and Walter F. Wilson, considered the utilitarian needs of housing the elaborate machinery necessary for heating and lighting the scattered buildings of the university and the distant capitol building. The structure is of old Virginia face brick on a

steel frame, and the architecture is modern. The upper portions of each of the tall windows are crowned with three receding brick arches. Between the windows are brick buttresses that extend from the ground to the parapet, where they terminate in the Bedford stone that encircles the tops of the walls.

The STADIUM, between 10th and 12th Sts., U and V Sts., was erected as a memorial to the men of Nebraska who served in the Nation's wars. Its construction was financed by contributions from students, faculty, alumni, and friends of the university. The two stands have a seating capacity of 32,000; bleachers provide additional accommodation for 15,000. The quarter-mile cinder track, considered one of the best in the United States, was the scene of the national A.A.U. meet several times.

5. The SCENE OF THE LINCOLN BANK ROBBERY, 1144 O St., now occupied by a jewelry firm, was at the time of the robbery the office of the Lincoln National Bank and Trust Company. This was one of the largest bank robberies in America, the loot in currency and bonds amounting to \$2,000,000. On the morning of September 17, 1930, three men quietly entered the lobby of the bank, flourished guns, and forced employees and patrons to lie face down on the floor; then they methodically scooped up all the currency behind the cages, looted the vault, jumped into a waiting sedan and sped away. All this was accomplished without gunfire in less than 15 minutes. The identity of all the bandits was never conclusively established. Two men were given long-term sentences; one was released. Gus Winkler, a known member of Al Capone's gang, established an alibi. Winkler confessed to knowledge of the stolen bonds and bargained with the authorities for the restitution of \$600,000 in securities in return for his freedom. Much discussion and comment followed; but Winkler won his point; bonds valued at \$575,000 were eventually returned. Winkler was killed by underworld gunmen in 1933.

6. The LINCOLN CITY LIBRARY (*open 9 a.m.-10 p.m. weekdays, 2-10 Sun.*), NE. corner of 14th and N Sts., was opened to the public May 27, 1902. The modified Renaissance building, of gray pressed brick, erected with the aid of funds contributed by Andrew Carnegie, has 122,000 volumes, files of many magazines, and a collection of books by Nebraska authors.

7. ST. PAUL METHODIST CHURCH, NW. corner of 12th and M Sts., a red brick building trimmed in stone with Gothic windows, occupies a site used by the Methodists since 1869. The first congregation of the church was organized in 1867 by Robert Hawkes, an itinerant preacher. The following year the church, then known as the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Lincoln, increased its membership sufficiently to erect a \$2,000 building. In 1883 a new \$45,000 structure was built and the name changed to St. Paul Methodist Episcopal. In 1899 this building burned, and plans were made for the present one. At the time of its dedication, in 1901, it was described as one of the largest and "most elegant" churches west of the Mississippi.

8. The SITE OF THE LINCOLN SANITARIUM, SE. corner of 14th and M Sts., is occupied by a fruit stand. The sanitarium, a large brown-

stone building, with 110 hospital beds, was built by Drs. M. H. and J. O. Everett, primarily as a bath resort. A number of wells were sunk at different depths—one 220 feet, another 400 feet, and the principal one 900 feet. The water had a high mineral content and was valued as a treatment for rheumatism and other ailments. A large swimming pool made this a popular recreational center, often having as many as 800 bathers in one day. In 1928 the sanitarium was closed, and by 1930 it had been razed.

9. The NEBRASKA STATE CAPITOL, entrance at 15th and K Sts., (*open 8-5 daily; guide tours 10:30, 2, 3, weekdays; 2, 3, Sun.*).

The distinguishing feature of the building, in itself a radical departure in the design of capitols, is the great central tower rising 400 feet, its height emphasized by the vertical lines of the fenestration and massive corner pylons. The towering mass of the capitol was designed by Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue to be visible over a radius of many miles of prairie. It rises from grounds extending over an area of four city blocks.

The plan of the limestone structure is in the form of a vast square with a cross on the longitudinal and transverse axes dividing it into four inner courts.

The long outer quadrangle, one story in height, is raised on a high podium or base, the top of which forms a continuous promenade.

The exterior of the quadrangle is designed with dignity and restraint. With its simple fenestration and ample wall surfaces it forms an appropriate base to the great central tower.

In the center of each façade is a massive entrance pavilion. The design of these elements with their arches, heroic sculpture, and corner pylons establishes at once the monumental scale and idealistic theme of the entire building composition.

The great central tower is crowned with a gold glazed-tile dome upon which stands Lee Lawrie's 27-foot bronze statue, the *Sower*. Around the base of the dome is a mosaic bearing a highly conventionalized Indian emblem, the Thunderbird. The figure of the Sower and this mosaic ornamentation indicate the symbolism of the building.

The symbolism of the rich decorations is the work of Hartley Burr Alexander, formerly of the University of Nebraska. It is derived from many sources—ancient and European history, Indian culture, the pioneer era, modern agriculture, and the ideals of government. These decorations were executed by Mr. Lawrie, Hildreth Meiere, Augustus Tack, and others.

A tour of the outer promenade provides the best view of the inscriptions and exterior decorations.

A narrow frieze below the cornice of the outer quadrangle bears the names of the various counties of Nebraska. The first unit in the symbolic decorations on the exterior are the bas-relief panels on the cheek blocks of the steps leading to the north entrance. The buffalo and maize express the life of the prairie and on the panels are inscribed quotations from Indian tribal rituals, songs, and legends.

On the face of the west block is an inscription dedicated to the citizens of the State and on the east block another dedicated to the pioneers. The arch of the north portal frames a pioneer panel symbolizing the coming



CAPITOL

of the white man to a new land. Decorative borders embellished with corn and ox skulls line the top of the panel and adorn the soffit of the arch. The main north portals, executed in bronze grille, were designed by Lee Lawrie; the decorations symbolizing the life of the open prairie. Above the north doorway is the inscription, "The Salvation of the State is Watchfulness in the Citizen." On the face of the pylons (left and right) are the seals of the United States and the State of Nebraska, respectively, and at their top are the figures of Wisdom and Justice (left) and Power and Mercy (right), the *Guardians of the Law*.

A series of eighteen panels on the four corner pavilions and flanking the pylons of the east and west central pavilions record the history of the Law. Continuing the circuit around the promenade, the bas-relief panels on the northwest corner pavilion represent the *Mosaic Law* and *Deborah Judging Israel*. Above the three arches of the west entrance pavilion, left to right, are three panels depicting the *Constitution of Athens*, the *Law of the Twelve Tables* and the *Tribunate of the People*. Flanking the pylons of the west pavilion are bas-reliefs of *Solomon* (left) and *Plato* (right). The panels on the pavilion at the southwest corner represent *Orestes before the Areopagites* and *Justinian's Code*. The series is broken on the south façade by the monumental central pavilion. The south en-

trance to the building, in the base of the promenade, is flanked by a double flight of terraced steps and by broad ramps which lead from the street into the basement under the promenade. The south pavilion is designed with three massive arched clerestory windows, at the base of which is a decorative balcony. The face of the balcony is adorned with pierced bas-relief panels representing the *Declaration of Independence*, *Magna Charta* and the *United States Constitution*; symbolic figures on the piers represent the great *Lawgivers of the Ancient World*. On the southeast corner pavilion are panels representing the *Anglo-Saxon Code* and *Milton Defending Free Speech*. Above the arched windows of the east pavilion (left to right) are three bas-reliefs: *Las Casas Pleading the Cause of the Indian*, the *Mayflower Compact* and *Proclamation of Emancipation*; flanking the pylons are *Burke Speaking for America* (left) and the *Louisiana Purchase* (right). On the northeast corner pavilion are two panels devoted to Nebraska's history, the *Kansas-Nebraska Bill* and the *Admission of the State*.

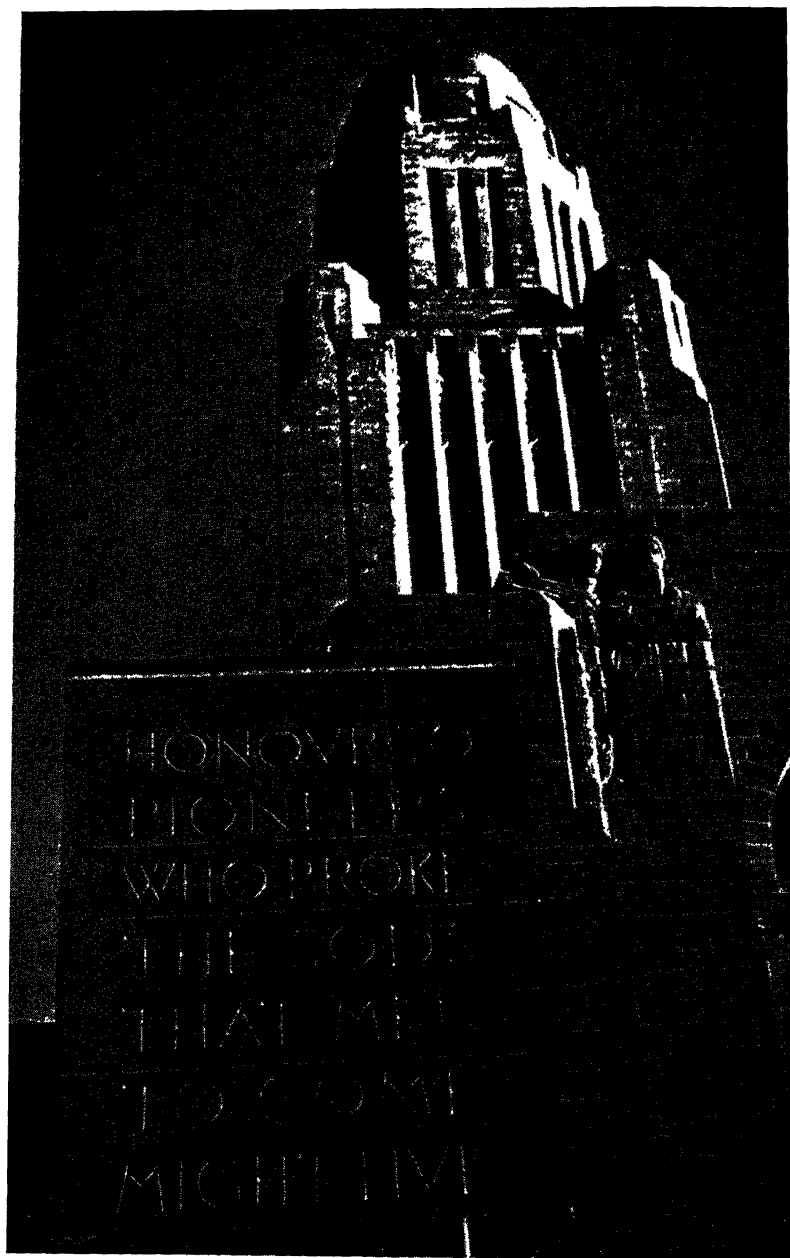
Heroic figures surmount the lower buttresses of the tower—an Egyptian scribe, a prophet of Israel, a Greek philosopher, an emperor, a scientist, and a three-quarter figure of Lincoln.

The first or ground story of the capitol is devoted to various offices of the State, the Departments of Public Works, Agriculture, Trade and Commerce, the Bureaus of Health and Labor, Offices of Motor Vehicles, Board of Pardons, and the Historical Society, as well as a restaurant.

In the Historical Society's MUSEUM AND PICTURE GALLERY (*open 8-5 weekdays, 2-5 Sun.*) are exhibits such as an ox yoke, made at Palmyra, Nebr., in 1870, used in plains freighting; the wooden tombstone of a cowboy killed and scalped by Cheyenne Indians in 1879; a crude wooden plow, said to have plowed the first row of corn in Richardson County; a large gun collection (Kilpatrick); pioneer musical instruments; a collection of pioneer clothing; the W. J. Bryan collection; Indian clothing, war equipment, implements, and peace pipes. The archeological collections are among the largest and most important of their kind in America, in the opinion of the Smithsonian Institution. The *Newspaper, Picture, and Manuscript Collections* include photographs of historical scenes and persons, Nebraska newspaper files from 1854 to date, and many valuable and rare documents and records. The HISTORICAL LIBRARY consists of about 100,000 books and pamphlets including the Journal of the First Colorado Legislature, 1859, valued at \$2,000; the Kilpatrick Genealogical Library; collections and books of Robert W. Furnas, T. H. Tibbles, W. J. Bryan, and J. Sterling Morton; and volumes on State and western history and archeology.

On the second or principal floor are the Senate, the House of Representatives, the Supreme Court, and various offices of the legislature and judiciary.

The symbolism of the interior is drawn from three varying sources—the decorations in the north vestibule epitomize the gifts of nature to Nebraska's soil; in the great north foyer, the image of the settlement and future of the land; and in the rotunda at the crux of the plan, the attain-



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ments of men, and the story of life which Nebraska's sub-soil so richly exemplifies. The details in the two chambers of legislature complete the decorative theme of the interior—that of the Senate in the east arm of the cross symbolizing the world of the red man; while that of the House Chamber in the west arm of the cross is devoted to the coming of the white man.

The spacious North Vestibule, square in plan, is flanked by massive arches which rise in support of a vaulted dome. The colorful ceiling covered with Guastavino tile mosaic is adorned with decorative panels symbolizing *The Gifts of Nature*, the work of Hildreth Meiere. On the soffits of the arches are tile panels depicting the fauna of Nebraska. Light is admitted to the vestibule through four semicircular bronze-grilled windows.

The foyer leading from the north vestibule to the rotunda is a long arched chamber, six bays in length, with a high vaulted ceiling. A narrow gallery lines the walls between the piers forming a promenade on two sides of the rotunda. The foyer is lighted by large clerestory windows in the arch of each bay. The polished mosaic floor is designed with elaborate geometric patterns. Through the center are symbolic figures—a male figure representing *Cosmic Energy*, three female figures, *Spirit of the Soil*, *Spirit of Animal Life*, and finally, the figure of *Man*.

The rotunda, with its great domed ceiling rising ninety-five feet above the floor, forms the nucleus of the symmetrical plan of the capitol. It is surrounded by a narrow gallery corridor. The design of the rotunda with its classic piers, massive pendentives and colonnades recalls at once the Imperial architecture of ancient Rome and the classic basilicas of early Christianity. Around the drum of the dome is a promenade gallery set behind a peripteral colonnade. The columns with their variegated marble shafts are designed with modified Corinthian caps. The tile ceiling of the dome is embellished in shades of blue, mauve and burnt orange with a rosette motif of the *Virtues*. The buff and black marble mosaic floor has a large central motif symbolizing *Mother Earth*, flanked by the goddesses *Agriculture* and *Commerce*, with the young boy *Opportunity* at her feet. Around them is a band of prehistoric fauna. Four secondary panels represent the mythical elements, *Air*, *Water*, *Fire* and *Earth*. Set into the floor are intricate bronze grilles. A large bronze lighting fixture embellished with the signs of the Zodiac hangs from the dome.

Framed in the great eastern arch of the rotunda, is the portal to the Senate Chamber. The doors, of heavily carved wood painted in brilliant colors, bear the figures of an Indian chieftain, an Indian woman, and the conventional Indian Thunderbird. They were designed by Lee Lawrie.

The Senate Chamber is almost square in plan with massive corner piers rising in support of a segmental vaulted ceiling. There is a large gallery with a decorative bronze railing on three sides of the chamber. The color scheme of the chamber is in warm shades of buff, brown, blue and gold. A monumental arched screen flanked by sculptured pylons forms a background to the presiding officer's desk. Above it is a tapestry designed with a row of squaws and the Indian Thunderbird motif. The tile mosaic ceiling is embellished with scenes of Indian life.



DECORATION, STATE CAPITOL

At the west side of the rotunda are the leather-covered doors leading into the House Chamber. The doors executed in deep tones of rust, yellow, green and blue are embellished with the ancient Assyrian *Tree of Life*. They are the work of Hildreth Meiere.

The House Chamber, somewhat larger than that of the Senate, has a gallery on three sides supported on varicolored marble columns. The massive beamed walnut ceiling is adorned with scenes of the coming of the white man, executed in gold leaf. The presiding officer's chair is framed in a large arched niche

From the south side of the rotunda, a long corridor leads to the Supreme Court Chamber in the south central pavilion. This low-ceiled room with its impressive bench is notable for its fine woodwork. The walls are wainscoted in walnut with inlays of various woods. The heavily beamed ceiling is adorned with carved and inlaid decorations.

A wide corridor leads to the various executive offices and lounges in the outer quadrangle. In the east central pavilion is the Senate Lounge; a lofty vaulted and wainscoted room with a canopied fireplace. It is designed in the manner of the early Italian Renaissance. In the west central pavilion is a similar chamber, designated the House Lounge.

The Governor's suite is in the northeast wing of the quadrangle. The Governor's reception room is decorated with colorful murals by Augustus Tack symbolizing a perfect community life and an ideal government.

The design of this beautiful chamber with its rich furnishings, high

wainscoted walls, vaulted ceiling and canopied fireplace recalls the elaborate fifteenth century architectural designs in Florentine palaces

From the seventh to the twelfth floors of the tower are additional offices for the capitol. These offices are served by four elevators opening off of the gallery of the rotunda—two for passengers, two for freight.

On the gallery floor (south), the NEBRASKA STATE LIBRARY (*open 8-5 weekdays*), reached through the gallery of the rotunda, contains more than 100,000 volumes. It is said to rank fifth among State law libraries in the country.

On the fourteenth floor is the Memorial Hall, a large octagonal rotunda-like chamber, under the crowning dome of the tower. The walls of the hall are faced with a dark green marble wainscot, and the corners are accented by slender fluted pilasters. The domed ceiling is of buff and gold acoustic tile. The upper portion of each wall is pierced by large bronze grilled windows. Hanging from the ceiling is an unusual chandelier in the form of an eight-pointed star.

When Nebraska was admitted into the Union in 1867, the dispute over the location of the Territorial capital of Nebraska had been a political issue for seventeen years. In 1845 Francis Burt of South Carolina was appointed Governor of the Nebraska Territory by President Franklin Pierce. Burt's untimely death prevented Bellevue on the Missouri River from being selected as the Territorial capital. The first capitol was located at Omaha. In 1854 a two-story brick structure was erected at a cost of \$3,000 to serve as the first Territorial capitol. In 1858 a second capitol building was erected in Omaha, a two-story gray, painted-brick structure of Greek Revival design with a Corinthian colonnade. In 1867 a new site was named for the capital city in the South Platte district—the present Lincoln. The first State Capitol, erected in 1869 at a cost of \$76,000, occupied the site of the present structure. The building was a T-shaped, two-story limestone structure with a central pavilion and a large central cupola. It was replaced in 1888 by an entirely new structure erected on the same site. The second State Capitol was designed in the neo-Classic style with a massive colonnaded and pedimented central section topped with lofty octagonal dome and flanked by long three-story wings.

The construction of a new capitol was approved by the legislature in 1919. A commission was appointed to arrange a program of architectural competition. Of the designs submitted, that of Bertram Goodhue, New York architect, was selected by the judges as the most original and appropriate. On April 15, 1922, Gov. Samuel McKelvie broke ground for the new building, with Marshall Joffre of France present as guest of honor. The cost, approximately \$10,000,000, was financed by tax levies of .22 mill as the building progressed, the State incurring no indebtedness.

10. The LINCOLN MONUMENT, W. side of the capitol lawn, designed by Daniel Chester French, was completed in 1912. Abraham Lincoln is portrayed standing in meditative pose, with head bowed and hands clasped, before a large granite tablet on which the Gettysburg Address is engraved. A copy of this statue is in the Chicago Museum of Art; the original model is in the Lincoln Tomb at Springfield, Ill.

11. The HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH, NE. corner of 12th and J Sts., a T-shaped structure of reddish-buff limestone, was built in 1888 at a cost of \$40,000. With a tall spire, its entrance flanked by buttresses, the building is of Gothic design, and was selected by the Historical American Building Survey as one of the few churches in Nebraska typical of the best architecture of the period.

12. The LANCASTER COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 10th St. between J and K Sts., was built in 1888 at a cost of \$170,000. The building is of sandstone, quarried at Berea, Ohio.

13. The ORTHOPEDIC HOSPITAL, SW. corner 11th and South Sts., was established in 1905 by act of the State legislature to provide a hospital where crippled children could receive corrective treatment. Special features of the building include school rooms, solarium, swimming pool, gymnasium, and a chapel. Dr. H. Winnett Orr, internationally known bone specialist, is chief visiting surgeon.

14. THE CAVE, 11th and High Sts. (*open daily; adm. 25¢ per person; special rates to parties of 10 or more*), is a series of caverns and winding passages in an outcrop of Dakota sandstone. The walls, scratched with names, initials and dates, are streaked in ochreous yellow and hematite reds and browns.

In Pawnee legends it was in the "Nahurac" spirits' cave that medicine men held mystic sacred rites, and neophytes were proven and initiated. A snowbound wagon train used its protection; and after the Indian scare in 1862, settlers lived in it all winter. In 1863, when a stone quarry was started by three men who had acquired title to the land from the Government, the removal of the cap rock destroyed the original entrance to the cave. In 1906, when the caverns were being cleared of debris so as to be used for a mushroom garden, stories of hidden treasure brought so many visitors to the place that plans were changed and the cave was kept open for sightseeing and picnicking.

15. The LINCOLN GENERAL HOSPITAL, 2315 S. 17th St., was completed in March 1925, at a cost of about \$250,000. Its construction was made possible by bequests from several people, and by a tax levy voted by the citizens. The five-story building, of red brick trimmed in stone, is completely modern, with model diet kitchens on each floor. The hospital has 110 beds and has high voltage X-ray equipment for the treatment of cancer.

16. The OLD BRYAN HOUSE (*private*), 1625 D St., was the home of William Jennings Bryan from 1887 to 1902. From here he attended two national conventions of the Democratic Party and returned as their Presidential nominee. From the balcony of the little frame house he addressed throngs of neighbors and friends who came to offer congratulations. The parlor fireplace has two tiles on which are portraits of the Bryan children, Ruth and William, Jr.

17. The FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, NE. corner of 17th and F Sts., was designed in 1925 by Cram and Ferguson of Boston, and cost \$253,000. It is built of red brick and Bedford limestone in a simple Gothic style. The church chapel and Sunday school buildings form a quad-

range around a small formal court, which is entered through wrought-iron gates.

The church proper has a cruciform plan with small galleries over the entrance vestibule and in the two transepts. The fourth arm of the cross is occupied by the chancel which accommodates the divided choir and a central communion table. Back of the table is a large hanging of red tapestry framed in carved wood. The open roof is supported by arched trusses, and, like the rest of the trim, is of dark wood; the walls are of tinted plaster. The windows, in a grisaille type of stained glass, give color to the interior.

18. The FIRST PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, NE. corner of 20th and D Sts., was completed in 1931 at a cost of \$518,000. H. Van Buren Magonigle, architect from New York City, designed the building. Bricks varying in color from gold to deep rose were used in the construction. The six different tints have mellowed with time, and are already partially vine covered.

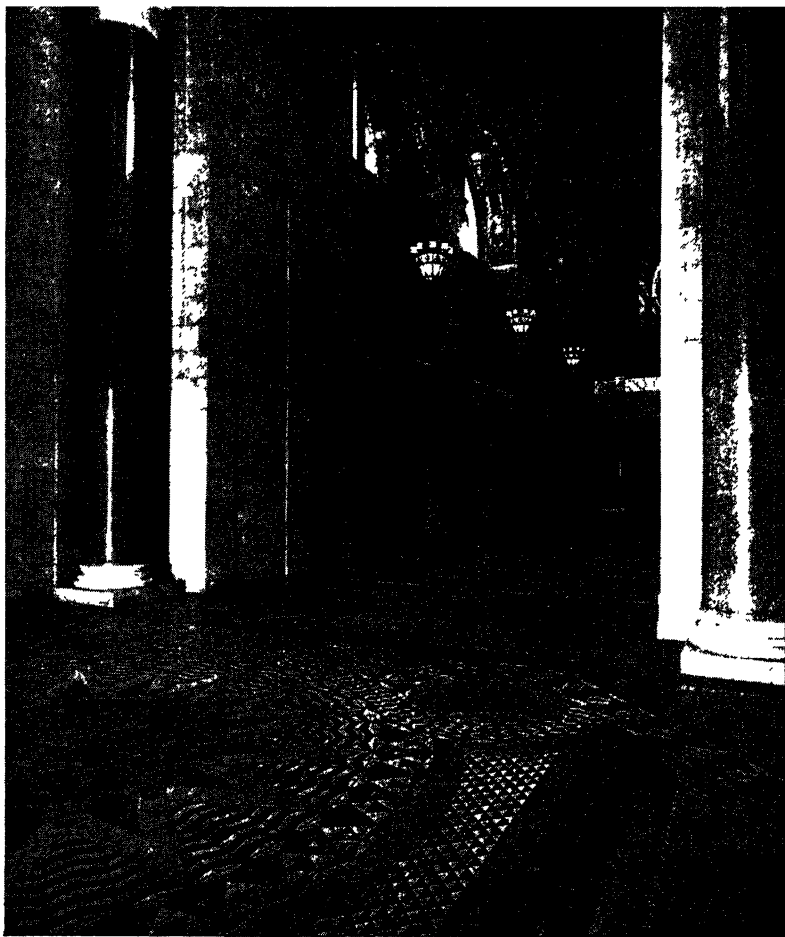
The forecourt, raised above the ground level and measuring 80 by 100 feet, is used for various open-air services, and there is an outdoor pulpit in the tower. The Pilgrim Stone, a doorstep across which the Pilgrims and their descendants walked for centuries, was a gift from Plymouth, England. Calvin Coolidge selected the inscription for the stone from a sermon delivered in 1668 by the Reverend William Stoughton: "God sifted a whole nation that He might send choice grain into the wilderness." There also is a stone that came as a gift from Eisleben, Germany, taken from the house in which Martin Luther was born.

The brick walls of the arcade and of the parish house enclose the court. At the connection of the parish house and church proper is the 20-sided Singing Tower, which rises 171 feet above the ground. At the top of the tower are figures of the four evangelists with their emblems at their feet: the lion, the ox, the eagle, and the angel. The use of pictorial symbolism is carried out in detail in the interior.

The 48 bells in the carillon tower are a memorial to Mrs. Carrie Belle Raymond, organist and choir leader of the First Plymouth Church for many years. The bells are chromatically tuned and can be played by hand or by electric control. They were made by John Taylor and Company, Loughborough, England, at a cost of \$28,000. The largest bell weighs 4,592 pounds and the smallest 130.

The interior follows the simple early Christian style. The only decoration on the wall above the choir is the Lord's Prayer. Iron work set into the frames of windows of ground and clear glass depicts various ecclesiastical symbols, including the fish, the Greek name for which (ichthys) spells the initials of a series of Greek words meaning "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior."

19. ANTELOPE PARK extends S. of O St., along Antelope Creek, its width varying greatly. Immediately south of O St., the park comprises most of the ground between 23d and 25th Sts. south to J St., including the municipal swimming pool and tennis courts at 23d and M Sts. and the City Tourist Camp at 24th and Randolph Sts. The principal portion of



MAIN HALL, STATE CAPITOL

the park lies southeast of 27th and D Sts., from 27th to 30th Sts., south to A St., thence following Normal Blvd. to South St., and including Memorial Drive, which extends from the Dance Pavilion, just south of A St., south to Sheridan Blvd. The park was started in 1905 with the purchase of 31 acres by the city. Two years later 10 additional acres were donated by William Jennings Bryan. The park now (1938) comprises 179 acres.

The O STREET COLUMNS, standing at the O St. entrance to the park, were part of the old Federal Treasury Building at Washington. Quarried

in Virginia, these sandstone pillars stood on a site selected by President Jackson in 1836. Abraham Lincoln stood between them to review the Civil War troops. When the Treasury Building was remodeled in 1907, the columns were bought by Cotter T. Bride of Washington, an intimate friend of William Jennings Bryan, and presented to the city in 1916.

The SUNKEN GARDEN, SW. corner of 27th and D Sts., is a formally landscaped plot donated to the city to be made into a garden in 1930. In one of the pools is a concrete statue, *Rebecca at the Well*, designed by Ellis Luis Burman, Lincoln sculptor. The statue, a figure of a woman pouring water from a jug, rises four feet above a rock base.

The animals of the CITY ZOO are housed in a row of pens and sheds on the bank of Antelope Creek, a few yards NE. of the 27th and C St. entrance to Antelope Park. Besides various native animals, including raccoons, badgers, coyotes, and skunks, there are bears, wolves, monkeys, alligators, and other interesting species. South of the animal pens, just east of the tracks, are the pheasant and geese pens, where birds from Australia, Japan, and Mexico are exhibited along with species of pheasants that are numerous in Nebraska. A zoo building, of white, locally quarried limestone, is in process of completion (1938) in the park, on 27th St., facing B St. This structure, built by WPA labor, is designed to house a number of small animals in cages on the north and south sides of the building, with four larger cages on the east. A special feature is the aviary, occupying the entire center of the building, built over a pool and rock garden.

The WAR MEMORIAL, designed by Ellis Burman, stands about 100 yards northeast of the Garfield St. entrance to Antelope Park. The central shaft rises 23 feet and is surmounted by a 9-foot figure representing War and Victory. On four lower pedestals surrounding this shaft stand figures representing soldiers of four American conflicts: The Revolutionary War, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, and the World War.

The PIONEER WOMAN MONUMENT, on Memorial Drive just north of Sheridan Blvd., was designed by Ellis Burman and donated by the Women's Club and the Park Board. The figure is of concrete, the pedestal of stone. The trees along *Memory Garden* and *Memorial Drive* were planted in memory of Lancaster County soldiers who fell in the World War.

20. The WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 2210 Sheridan Blvd., designed by Ellery Davis and Walter F. Wilson, Lincoln architects, was completed in 1926 at a cost of \$150,000. The church is modern Gothic in a long rectangle of Tijorncliff clunker brick on a steel frame. A large cathedral-type tracery rose window set in Bedford stone dominates the façade. The interior is of eggshell plaster and dark wood. Columns, arches, and wooden beams are used much as in the First Presbyterian Church. The stained glass window, viewed from within, is brilliantly colored.

The most southeasterly section of Lincoln is COLLEGE VIEW, founded in 1889 by the Seventh Day Adventists when they chose the site for the construction of a denominational college. For a quarter of a century the community consisted exclusively of members of that faith. The nickname "Peanut Hill," which this section acquired, recalls the visits to Union Col-

lege of Dr. "Cornflakes" Kellogg and other health evangelists advocating the use of peanuts as a meat substitute. The evangelists gained many converts in College View; peanut roasters and grinders were household necessities. A trolley trip to Peanut Hill for a dime's worth of roasted peanuts constituted a favorite amusement for Lincoln people for many years. Since the World War, College View's population has been augmented by people of other faiths, and the community now has two Sabbath days.

21. UNION COLLEGE (*open*) 48th St. between Bancroft and Prescott Sts., and extending to 51st St., was originally a corn and sunflower patch. It is one of the higher units in the system of schools belonging to the Seventh Day Adventist denomination. The school's outstanding feature is its work program. More than 90 percent of the students are employed on the 120-acre farm, in the shops, or in one of the dozen buildings on the campus.

College Hall, the prominent building with the clock tower, houses the SCHOOL MUSEUM (*open 2-3 Sun.-Wed., during school year*), with its collection of curios from Pitcairn Island. The collection was sent to the college by Adventist natives of the island. The LIBRARY (*open 7.40 a.m.-9.30 p.m., Sun.-Thurs., 7.40-4.30 Fri.*), in the same building, is noteworthy for its denominational literature. In other buildings are the laundry, gymnasium, print shop, and the dormitories. The so-called White House is used by the church school, and it houses a group of 100 grade pupils taught mostly by student instructors.

22. FAIRVIEW, Sumner St., drive extending E. from 48th St., was formerly the country residence of William Jennings Bryan. The old red brick mansion, with square tower, green slate roof and quarter-circle porch, was built in 1902, a typical rich man's house of the horse and buggy era. The home was built by the Bryans to afford them more commodious quarters in which to live and entertain, and replaced the former home at 1625 D St. In 1923 Bryan donated his home to the Methodists for a hospital and nurses' home, and in 1925 the adjacent hospital, providing for 100 beds, was built. Fairview is used as a nurses' home.

23. The COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, Holdrege St. between 33rd and 48th Sts., and extending to Leighton St., is housed in a group of buildings arranged about a mall and drive, with numerous barns and sheds to the north and east of the instructional buildings, in grounds formally landscaped with trees, shrubs, and flower beds. The college was provided for by the act establishing the State university in 1869, but it was not until 1874 that students could be found to enter upon the agricultural course of study, and the "farm" was acquired September 1, 1874. In 1877 the college became, by legislative act, part of the "Industrial College," and was again made a separate college in 1909.

The College of Agriculture has been a formative influence in the history of the State, though for its first 20 years it struggled along with few buildings, meager equipment, and almost no students. There was little faith at the time in "book farming." Since then, however, its enrollment has steadily increased, and it has played an important role in the advancement of agriculture. It sponsored the growth of many farm organizations



O STREET, LINCOLN

and provides an extension service that includes 4-H Club work, farm demonstrations, and the issuance of 550,000 bulletins every year. In addition, the college operates the Agricultural Experiment Station, where original research is performed and reported. There is an experimental farm southeast of Havelock, and substations at North Platte, Mitchell, and Valentine.

The AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING BUILDING, a tan-brick structure directly north of the Main Drive, has a museum of antiquated farm machinery. Directly north of this building is the STATE TRACTOR TESTING LABORATORY, established to test each new type tractor on the basis of performance. Bulletins reporting these tests are the most popular of all those published by the university, and are circulated in many foreign countries.

Two meetings of great interest to the farmer are held on the campus annually. The first is Organized Agriculture Week, held the first week in December, when the agricultural organizations of the State meet for a series of lectures and entertainments. Second is the Farmers' Fair, held the first Saturday in May following Ivy Day. This college fete, under supervision of students, presents exhibits and demonstrations. Among features are a livestock parade, open-air pageant, style show, riding contest, and vaudeville, wrestling, and dancing. On the campus are many rare trees and flowers. The lilac hedge along Holdrege St. fills the air with scent in spring; the peony beds along the 35th St. Drive are a mass of color when in bloom; the avenue of oaks on the Main Drive attracts motorists in fall

UNIVERSITY PLACE, adjacent to the College of Agriculture on the northeast, was founded and named by the Methodists immediately upon selection of the site of Wesleyan University. Willa Cather depicts University Place as "Temple Place" in *One of Ours*, emphasizing its moral tone and sanctimonious air. The community is a gathering place for retired ministers and adherents of the Methodist denomination; it has frequently been called the "Holy City Nigh Unto Bethany." Even since its annexation to the city of Lincoln, it has had no movies save open-air presentations in summer.

24. NEBRASKA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY (*open*), entrance at 50th and Paul Sts., was founded by the Methodist Church to provide a school of higher education for Methodist youth. The history of the school begins with the year 1886, when the church appointed a commission from the conferences and schools to combine all Methodist educational work in Nebraska in one large school. A site near Lincoln was selected, and the main building, costing \$70,000, directly opposite the main gateways, was erected. On the 44-acre campus are seven buildings. An average of 50 faculty members instruct a student body of approximately 600. Wesleyan is strong in its emphasis on religious matters, and numerous graduates are active in the ministry and in the missionary field. The university maintains a high degree of scholarship in the Departments of Fine and Liberal Arts, and in the Teachers College.

25. The HAVELOCK SHOPS (*open 8-4 weekdays; guides*), N. of Havelock Ave., a dozen long and high red brick or gray stucco buildings, mostly three window rows in height but entirely open on the inside, present the appearance of a modern steel plant. The grounds include 160 acres of the original 200 acres donated by the Lancaster Land Company for the Burlington Railroad's Western Division shops. The shops have had a development parallel to that of the city of Havelock, for as the shops expanded the town grew, becoming the second largest city in Lancaster County and now part of Lincoln. At the peak of employment, the shops have furnished work for 400 to 800 men, though in times of inactivity only a skeleton crew is kept for emergency work.

These shops, now devoted exclusively to the building and repair of cars, are unusual because in their transition from locomotive shops to car shops much of the former equipment remained here, such as heavy overhead track cranes and machinery for handling large metal parts. The buildings include a storehouse and office, a car shop, blacksmith shop, paint shop, roundhouse, leather drying shed, carpenter shop, and mill.

26. COTNER UNIVERSITY, Cotner Blvd., between Colby St. and Aylesworth Ave., was founded by the Christian Church of Nebraska in 1889. First known as Nebraska Christian University, the institution was renamed Cotner University after Samuel Cotner donated a large tract of land in Bethany to the school. The University Building was completed in 1890. Soon after its founding, the financial depression of the nineties decreased the value of its assets, and notes given on lots for construction of buildings were defaulted. A mortgage was placed on the university, and business conditions became so bad that the mortgage was foreclosed.

Meanwhile classes continued, and after strenuous efforts the school property was redeemed and deeded back in 1901. For the next three decades the university, sustained largely by donations, offered courses to a small enrollment in four departmental schools. In 1933, following another financial depression, the university closed its doors. The town of Bethany, now a part of Lincoln, grew up around the university campus.

27. VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION FACILITY (*open 1:30-4:30, 6:30-8:30, Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri., Sun.; 1:30-4:30, Tues., Sat.*), 70th and O Sts., was opened in December 1930 as a hospital for veterans from Nebraska and nearby States. During the first year almost 1,400 veterans were admitted.

The 23 buildings on the 320-acre tract house a 200-bed general medical and surgical hospital serving veterans of all wars residing in Nebraska, Western Iowa, Southern South Dakota and Northern Kansas; and the regional office of the Veterans' Administration for the State of Nebraska, which handles compensation and pension claims and guardianship matters for veterans of the World War.

28. The LINCOLN AIRPLANE AND FLYING SCHOOL (*open 8-5 weekdays*), 2415 O St., is one of the oldest civilian schools of aviation in the United States. Established in 1910, it operated originally as an Auto Mechanics Trade School. In 1920 the school added the necessary airplanes and mechanical equipment for instruction in aviation. It was here that Charles A. Lindbergh took his first instruction in flying. In April 1922 he rode into Lincoln on a motorcycle and enrolled for a course of flight training. This was the beginning of his great aviation career and one of the highlights contributing to the steady growth of the Lincoln School. The Lincoln Airplane and Flying School is Government-approved for flight and mechanical training, and holds the highest rating the United States Bureau of Air Commerce confers upon schools of aviation. Flight students receive training in a fleet of 14 modern airplanes of six different types. The building covers 63,000 square feet of floor space and is equipped for instruction in all phases of aviation mechanics. The school attracts students from every State in the Union and from all parts of the world. Instruction is given in English and Spanish. Flight and mechanics instructors are Government-licensed and hold Government instructors' ratings.

29. The NEBRASKA STATE FAIRGROUNDS, 287 acres, entrance at 17th and Clinton Sts., were permanently established in 1900. With hundreds of buildings, four miles of streets, a grandstand seating 12,500, a race track, an auditorium, an aquarium, stock pavilions, and a camp for concessionaires, the grounds are well equipped. During the Fair (*first week of September; annually*) thousands of visitors pass through the gates.

POINTS OF INTEREST IN ENVIRONS

State Penitentiary, 3.1 m., State Hospital, 5.5 m., State Reformatory, 7.6 m. (*see Tour 2*).

Norfolk

Railroad Stations: S. 3d and Railroad Ave., for Chicago & North Western Ry.; 5th St. and Braasch Ave., for Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Ry., Union Pacific R.R.
Bus Station: Norfolk Hotel, for Union Pacific, Corn Belt, Arrow Stage Lines, Center Service, Rapid Transit, Yellow Diamond, and Norfolk-Yankton Line.

Airport: 2.5 m. S. on US 81. No scheduled service.

Taxis: Rates vary; 15¢ or 20¢ for one person anywhere in city.

Accommodations: Three hotels; four tourist camps.

Information Service: Chamber of Commerce, Hotel Norfolk.

Radio Station: WJAG (1060 kc.).

Motion Picture Houses: Two.

Athletics: Nebraska State League Baseball Park, 3 blocks N. of Norfolk Ave. on 4th St.

Swimming: Ta-Ha-Zowka Park, 1 m. S. of town on 13th St

Golf: Meridian Heights, 3 m. NW. of Norfolk, 9 holes, fee 50¢; Norfolk Country Club, 6 blocks N. of Norfolk Ave. on 4th St., 9 holes, fee 50¢.

NORFOLK (1,525 alt., 10,717 pop.), lies among the low hills of the Elkhorn River Valley, in one of the best farming regions of the State. The city is a trading center, railroad division point, and the site of several small industries. It is about three miles west of the sixth principal meridian; a local golf club is named "Meridian Heights."

The square, white houses in the western part of town, many of them built by Norfolk's German founders, are fronted by neat rows of trees, and have about them an air of substantial prosperity. The solid brick buildings of the downtown section are low and generally unpretentious. Here and there is the decorative front of a very old building: one has bright-colored figures in relief—a sheep, a bull, and a pig. But most of the fronts are plain, except for the bristling neon signs and other advertisements. The principal industrial plants are on the western edge of town, along the tracks, or east by the river. The poorer residential sections are at the southern and northern edges of town.

In 1866 a group of pioneer German farmers from Wisconsin, who learned of the fertile Elkhorn River Valley from scouts, packed their possessions and turned their ox-drawn prairie schooners toward the rumored paradise. Upon their arrival, a surveyor was employed to survey the land and apportion equal shares to all who settled. When the surveyor arrived with his instruments—a compass and a bedcord—the whole colony turned out to assist him. The older boys acted as bedcord bearers, the men as general overseers. Forty-four families were each given 160 acres.

The founders wanted to name the settlement North Fork, because of its proximity to the north fork of the Elkhorn River that skirts the city on the north and east. But when they applied for a charter under this name the



SHIPPING CATTLE AT NORFOLK

Post Office Department at Washington shortened the name to Norfolk. Though this angered and astonished the little band of settlers, there was no formal protest, and the name was accepted. The name is pronounced by many Nebraskans as though it were spelled Norfork.

In 1869 Col. Charles Mathewson and his family came to the village and built a store on the west bank of the river. Mathewson constructed a grist-mill, operated by a power dam; and some time later he and his son Charles started the first bank. The town grew westward, and today the business section on Norfolk Avenue is nine blocks long. The city was incorporated in 1881 and chartered in 1886. In the nineties many new businesses were started, and schools were so improved that by 1897 the system was valued at \$75,000. In 1902 free rural mail routes were established in the vicinity, and the next year free mail delivery began in Norfolk.

In 1909 Norfolk became a city of the first class. A sewerage system was laid in 1913. In 1922 the senior high school was built at a cost of \$450,000. The same year, a license was granted to Norfolk's radio station WJAG, which specialized in news about markets, weather, and road conditions.

The district around Norfolk produces mainly corn and other farm products, and raises hay, oats, hogs, milk cows, beef cattle, horses, sheep, and poultry. The city, therefore, is an important center of livestock sales and distribution.

Dr. Richard Tanner, better known as "Diamond Dick," early plains man and marksman, and hero of many stories in the Diamond Dick novels of another day, is a native of Norfolk. Dr. Tanner owns one of the first model-T Fords ever made, and still drives it (1939). Fred Patzel, local

hog-caller, won the national championship in 1926. An attempt to broadcast his prize-winning bellow put the local radio station temporarily out of commission.

POINTS OF INTEREST

1. JOHNSON PARK, 2 blocks N. of Norfolk Ave. on 1st St., 5.5 acres, is a landscaped plot with flower-lined walks, a lily pond, waterfall, rock garden, and picnic grounds. Formerly a sand hole and dumping ground, the area was made into a park in 1935, and was named for a Norfolk citizen, N. P. Johnson.

2. The AERATION PLANT (*open 9-5 weekdays*), E. side of 1st St., one-half block S. of Norfolk Ave., is a square two-story structure of modern design, built with brick of contrasting shades of brown. Erected in 1933, it is equipped with the most efficient machinery obtainable for a city water supply.

3. The NORFOLK LIVESTOCK SALES COMPANY'S MAIN PAVILION (*always open; guides; sales Friday 10 a.m.*), 1307 S. 1st St., houses a sales arena with an area of 64,000 square feet, and has a seating capacity of 1,800. One-half block east of the main pavilion is the hog and sheep sales arena with a seating capacity of 1,200. To the south and east are the yards and loading chutes with space for 3,000 cattle, 7,000 hogs, and 1,000 sheep. In the main building are the company's offices. The barn adjoining the pavilion has stalls for 150 horses. The sales, every Friday morning, start at ten and often last until after midnight. Four auctioneers, employed by the company, cry out sales throughout the arena.

4. CENTRAL PARK, Pasewalk Ave. between 5th and 6th Sts. and extending to Bluff Ave., a landscaped recreation ground facing the senior high school, contains a tennis court, a children's playground, and a bandstand used for weekly concerts during the summer.

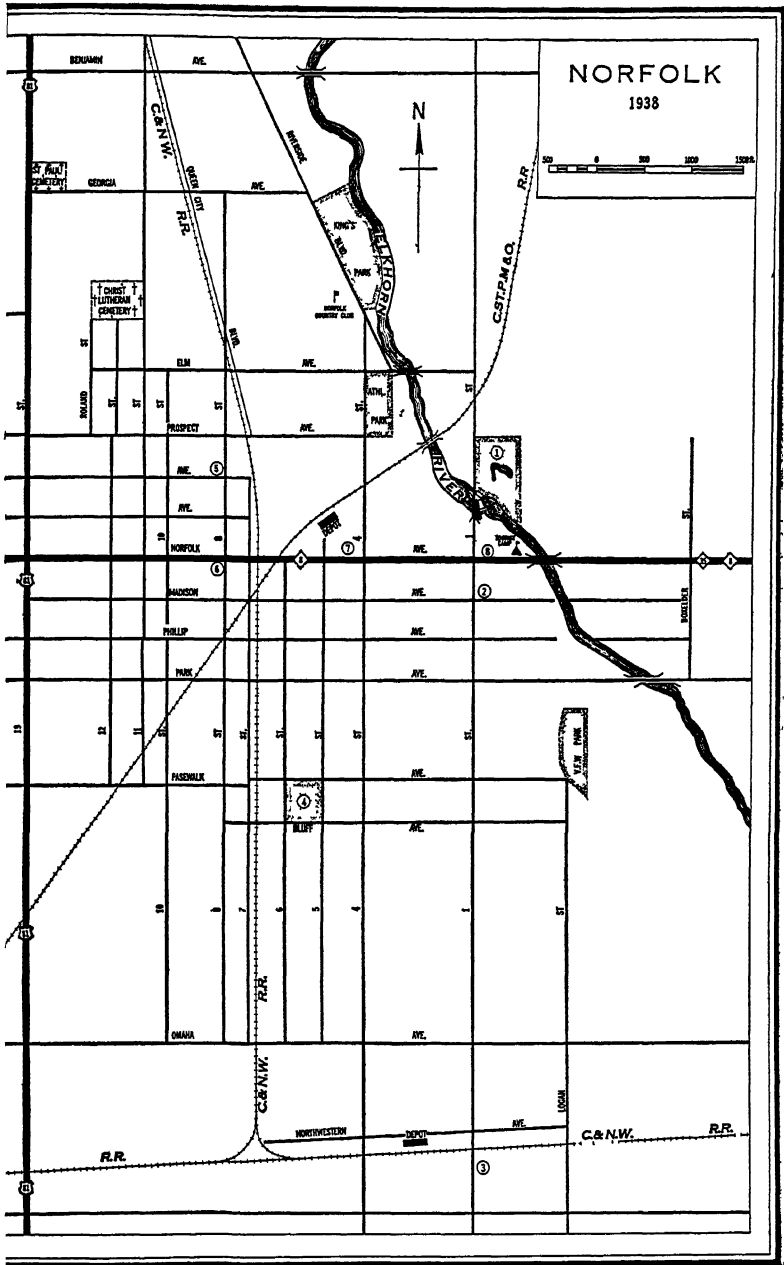
5. The DEDERMAN LOG HOUSE (*unoccupied*), 305 N. 8th St., is the oldest building in Norfolk. Built of willow logs from the banks of the river in 1868 or 1869, it consists of two rooms and a small upper loft. Chinks between the logs were filled with clay to keep out the bitter wind and snow of winter. As the Dederman family prospered, siding was put on the outside of the house, and lath and plaster on the inside. A two-room lean-to was later added at the rear.

6. The NORFOLK PUBLIC LIBRARY (*open 2-9 weekdays, 2-8 Sun.; July and August 2-8 weekdays, 2-6 Sun.*), SW. corner Norfolk and 8th Sts., is housed in a modern brick Colonial building, the basement of which is used as an auditorium. The library was established in 1896, and enlarged in 1911 through a gift by Andrew Carnegie. On a wall near the entrance hangs a set of steel-engraved portraits of all the Presidents of the United States, a gift of Congressman and Mrs. Karl Stefan, residents of the town.

7. THE SITE OF THE FIRST PUBLIC SCHOOLHOUSE IN NORFOLK, 408 Norfolk Ave., is occupied by a shoe store which retains the walls of the original building. The school was established in 1871 on the

KEY

1. Johnson Park
2. Aeration Plant
3. Norfolk Livestock Sales Com-
pany's Main Pavilion
4. Central Park
5. Dederman Log House
6. Norfolk Public Library
7. Site of the First Public School-
house in Norfolk
8. Norfolk Cereal & Flour Mills
Co. Plant



northeast corner of 5th St. and Norfolk Ave., but was later moved to the present site, to get away from the Union Pacific Railroad tracks. Often, during the earliest days of the school, Indians peered in at the windows while the woman teacher was carrying on classes, amazed that one woman should have so many children. In this schoolhouse was held the first murder trial in Madison County.

8. The NORFOLK CEREAL & FLOUR MILLS COMPANY PLANT (*open 8-5.30 weekdays; telephone in advance for guide service*), 52 E. Norfolk Ave., a rambling, gray, metal-sheathed building in which cereals, flour, and feed for poultry and animals are processed, stands by the river on the site of Norfolk's first gristmill and sawmill, built in 1869 by Col. Charles Mathewson with lumber and labor brought from Columbus, Nebr. The first mill was operated by the pit-saw method: a log was laid across a small pit and was cut by two men, one standing in the pit and pulling the saw down, the other on the ground level, pulling the saw up. Customers stood at the edge of the pit and chose their boards.

POINTS OF INTEREST IN ENVIRONS

State Hospital for Insane, 2 m., Site of Pawnee Battleground, 8.9 m., Rowell Lake Recreational Grounds, 22 m (*see Tour 3*)

North Platte

Railroad Station: 221 E Front St., for Union Pacific R R

Bus Stations: Pawnee Hotel, 217 E 5th St., for Burlington Trailways; 301 E. 6th St., for Union Pacific Stages and Interstate Transit Lines

Airport 2 m E of town on US 30, for United Air Lines Taxi fare 50¢

Taxis: One person anywhere in city, 15¢, two persons, 25¢.

Traffic Regulations: Speed limit downtown 15 m.p.h., residential district 25 m.p.h. One-hour parking in business district Jeffers St main thoroughfare N. and S.

Accommodations: Six hotels, six principal tourist camps; rooming houses and smaller camps.

Information Service Chamber of Commerce, Pawnee Hotel, 217 E 5th St.

Radio Station: KGNF (1430 kc).

Motion Picture Houses: Three

Athletics Jeffers Athletic Park, 7th and Jeffers St

Swimming Gerle's Pool, 2400 W 9th St, adults 15¢, children 10¢

Tennis. Cody Park, entrance on Jeffers St. 4 blocks N. of 12th St, Jeffers Athletic Park, 7th and Jeffers St; both free

Golf: North Platte Country Club, N. of city; 50¢ greens fee to non-members.

NORTH PLATTE (2,821 alt., 12,061 pop.), seat of Lincoln County, is a railroad town and trading center, lying on a long narrow delta at the forks of the North and South Platte Rivers. The city is on the boundary between central standard and mountain time. The former is used. North and south of the city, across the two rivers, prominent bluffs rise above the bottomlands.

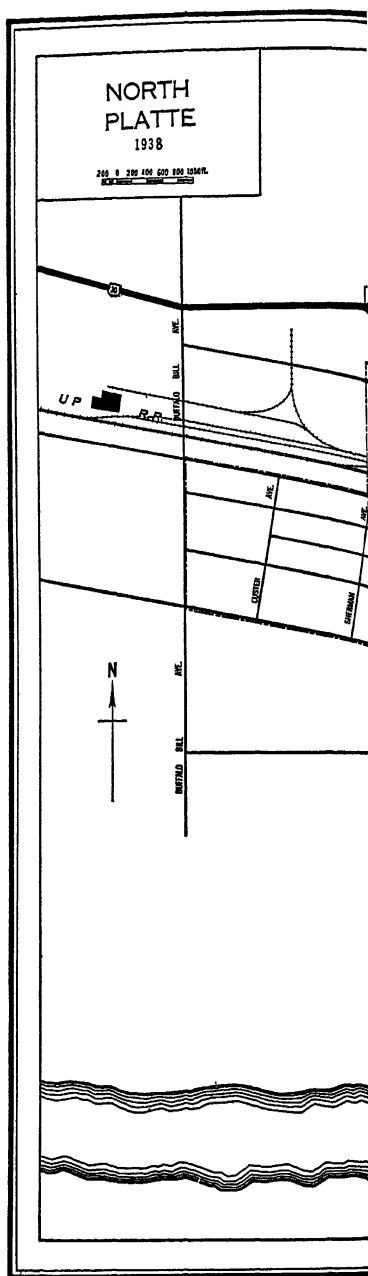
With its easy, informal atmosphere and way of life, North Platte has more in common with western and mountain towns than with the sedate, conservative county-seat towns of eastern Nebraska. The buildings of the business section, clustered south of the railroad tracks, are mostly plain, solidly built, and unimposing. There are no traffic lights; people and vehicles bustle about in unrestrained, comfortable, small-town fashion. The segment of the town that extends north of the railroad tracks, on Jeffers Street, forms almost a separate village, with an independent air of its own. The city's favorite ornament—whether for a hotel lobby or a grocery store—is a portrait of William F. (Buffalo Bill) Cody, and the favorite name for a park, tourist camp, or institution is "Cody." Buffalo Bill's ranch was near here (see *Tour 8*).

As the Union Pacific Railroad was extended toward North Platte in the sixties, traders and speculators were eager to discover where the railroad company planned to lay out towns.

On November 9, 1866, Peniston and Andrew J. Miller, having discovered that this place was to be made a construction camp, moved their trading post here from Cold Water. Gen. G. M. Dodge laid out the site

KEY

1. Memorial Park
2. The Lincoln County Courthouse
3. The Site of the First Log Schoolhouse in North Platte
4. The Site of the First Store in North Platte
5. Cody Park





of North Platte for the Union Pacific. The first newspaper, the *Pioneer on Wheels*, was started the same year, printed in a box car by a man named Clark. So far as is known no copies are extant. The second building in the settlement was a log structure moved from Cottonwood Springs by John Burke and used as a hotel. Several stores were soon built, and within a few months there were more than 300 buildings in town.

The population of the construction camp was more than 2,000 during the winter of 1866-1867. With the exception of a few businessmen, this population was made up of railroad laborers, gamblers, and "toughs." There was little law and order; from November 1866 to June 1867 North Platte was known as a wild, rough town.

In June 1867 the railroad was completed to Julesburg, Colo., and the construction gang was moved there, decreasing the North Platte population to about 300. Everything was moved that could be—temporary buildings, houses, even the town's newspaper. Only 20 houses remained. But that same year North Platte was made a division point on the line and the Union Pacific built machine shops, a 20-stall roundhouse, and a hotel. Thereafter the growth was steady, and by 1879 North Platte had a population of 1,600. The exodus of 1867 had rid the town of its rough element, but law and order was not enforced until 1870, when vigilantes lynched two thieves and shot a third. Thereafter the city had little disorder.

North Platte was incorporated in 1871, and a municipal form of government was adopted in 1875, when Anthony Ries, the elected mayor, presided at the first council meeting on April 14. In 1876 Ries, serving his second term, urged that every form of vice be suppressed. An ordinance was drawn up to "prevent women from entering or visiting saloons," which became law on January 16, 1877.

At this time the city had a \$20,000 courthouse and a \$16,000 schoolhouse. The Masons, Knights of Pythias, Odd Fellows, and Good Templars represented the fraternal organizations. The business district consisted of several general stores, two jewelry stores, a confectionery, a liquor store, flour and feed stores, hardware, furniture, and millinery stores, two blacksmith shops, two wagon shops, lumber and coal yards, and many smaller establishments.

On April 7, 1893, when the population of North Platte was more than 3,000, a prairie fire struck the city. The entire town turned out to fight the fire, apparently caused by sparks from a passing locomotive. The blaze began nine miles west of the city and was driven to the south and east, destroying 35 houses in the city, many farmhouses, barns, outbuildings, fences, farm implements, and stock.

A year-long strike occurred in 1902-03 when Union Pacific machinists and boiler-makers struck in opposition to the piecework system. Local sympathy was with the strikers: merchants would not sell to strikebreakers, barbers would not shave them, landlords refused to rent to them. Gradually, however, they were accepted by the town and the strike was thought lost. However, a settlement was finally reached, the piecework system was



SHANTYTOWN KID

abolished, and strikers returned to work with a cent and a half hourly increase in pay.

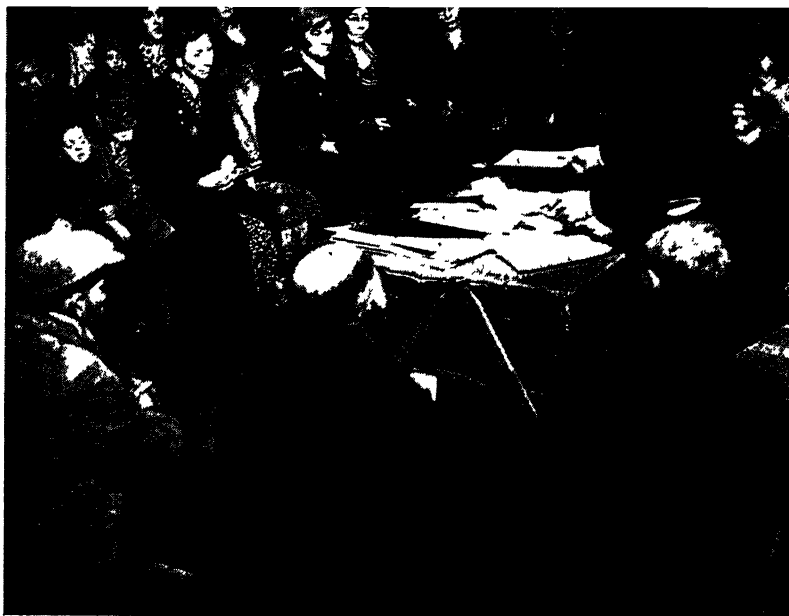
The first decade of the twentieth century in North Platte was marked by many improvements, and one of the main reasons for this growth was the rapid settlement of the sandhills of western Nebraska from which North Platte draws much of its trade. Following the drought of 1890, I. A. Fort of North Platte converted Representative William Neville to his plan of an "enlarged homestead" as a way of settling this region. Estimating that it would take two square miles for a rancher to support a family and not let his stock overgraze the land, Fort advocated a two-square-mile homestead requiring five years' residence and improvements. Although Neville introduced it in 1900, the plan was not enacted into law until Representative Moses Kinkaid of O'Neill reintroduced it in 1904. (*See HISTORY.*) This act, known as the Kinkaid Act, speeded the settlement of this region, used mainly for cattle raising. Irrigation, using water from the Platte River, was first attempted in 1866, and permitted some crop raising, especially sugar beets. Rainfall in North Platte is below the Nebraska average, the all-time annual average being 18.54 inches for the city as compared with 23.52 for the State.

Streets and sidewalks were laid out, graded, and built, with provision for sewers. New buildings and new homes were erected. A park was built and trees planted. Various residential additions were developed. Public buildings, a library, and a post office were built. The construction of an airport, in 1920, made the city a regular stop for transcontinental commercial planes. From 1910 to 1920 the city's population doubled, and whereas in 1884 the 350 workers at the Union Pacific drew annual wages of \$360,000, today there are 1,500 workers, whose annual pay roll reaches over \$3,000,000.

POINTS OF INTEREST

1. MEMORIAL PARK, Tabor Ave., between E. 2nd and E. 4th Sts., and extending to Bryan Ave., is a level area landscaped with trees, flower beds, an ornamental pool, and winding drives. A fountain in the center was dedicated by the city's war mothers to the World War dead. In the eastern part of the grounds is a LOG CABIN MUSEUM (*open 1-6 Sun. June through October*) containing pioneer relics. The cabin, moved to the park in 1924 and since maintained by the D.A.R., was originally built as the home of William Roland; it stood at the present intersection of 6th and Dewey Sts. The roof is now shingled, but formerly was of sod in which sunflowers grew. During Indian scares the house was used as a refuge by women and children, because the roof could not take fire.

2. The LINCOLN COUNTY COURTHOUSE, Jeffers St. between E. 3rd and E. 4th Sts., is a modern building of neoclassic design, constructed of light-brown brick and white stone, with Ionic columns in pairs along its western and eastern sides. The grounds to the east are landscaped with grass and trees. A RELIC ROOM on the second floor of the courthouse (*see custodian for visiting arrangements*) contains a battered chariot pre-



WORKERS ALLIANCE MEETING

sented to Buffalo Bill in England by Queen Victoria. Other items are tools, cooking utensils, and clothing used by the early residents of Nebraska; relics from old Fort McPherson, including ox yokes, bullet molds, a huge padlock, a broadax nearly 14 inches wide, double-barreled pistols, rifles five feet long, bayonets, swords, tomahawks, spears and arrowheads, Indian clubs, and an old packsaddle; early pictures, newspapers, and record books. There is a wheel from the old well on the California Trail, which was used by the Forty-Niners, and there are many relics of the Civil War.

3. The SITE OF THE FIRST LOG SCHOOLHOUSE IN NORTH PLATTE, 502 Dewey St., is occupied by a hardware store. School District No. 1 was organized by a few citizens in 1868; a log school building was put up, with one of the school officers paying the workmen out of his own pocket. The first two teachers soon resigned; and on November 30, 1868, Miss Mary Hubbard took over the school. She had fewer than a dozen pupils and not many textbooks: there was only one Fourth Reader and, fortunately, only one pupil in the fourth grade. During Indian scares, Miss Hubbard kept a revolver in the schoolroom. In 1874, after the construction of a brick schoolhouse, the old log building was purchased at auction and moved away for use as a stable.

4. The SITE OF THE FIRST STORE IN NORTH PLATTE, SW.

corner Jeffers and Front Sts., is used as a filling station lot. The original store, a general trading post, occupied a frame structure built by A. J. Miller, North Platte's first citizen, in 1866 just after the town was platted. The next year Miller and his business partner, William Peniston, had their cedar-log store at Cold Water (about 25 miles west of Plum Creek) moved to North Platte and set up beside the frame store. The frame building was then sold and torn down; but the log building was used as a store for many years, later was vacant, and finally burned in 1910.

A mammoth tent stood just east of the frame store in earliest days, containing a bar, billiard tables, and gambling devices. The operator, a man named McDonald, made a great deal of money by following the railroad construction gang from camp to camp.

5. CODY PARK, entrance on N. Jeffers St. 4 blocks N. of 12th St., 120 acres, is bounded on the west by N. Jeffers St., on the north by the North Platte River, on the east and south by section lines. The park is well planted with trees; there are public picnic grounds and athletic facilities. A lake in the middle is stocked with game fish. Improvements in the drives and landscaping of the northern part of the grounds have been brought about through WPA labor.

William Frederick Cody, for whom the park was named, was better known as Buffalo Bill. He came to North Platte with his family in 1870, when he was already nationally famous as a scout, guide, and buffalo hunter, and for more than thirty years he was the town's most famous citizen. His Wild West Show was organized in 1883 at Scouts' Rest, his ranch three miles northwest of North Platte (*see Tour 8*).

POINTS OF INTEREST IN ENVIRONS

Scouts' Rest Ranch, 25 m., Fort McPherson National Cemetery, 169 m., Sutherland Power Project, 234 m. (*see Tour 8*).

Omaha

Railroad Stations: Union Terminal, 10th and Marcy Sts., for Union Pacific R R ; Chicago, Burlington & Quincy R R ; Chicago & North Western Ry.; Chicago Great Western R.R.; Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific R R ; Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific R R.; Illinois Central R R ; Missouri Pacific R R., and Wabash R R Webster St Station, 15th and Webster Sts., for branch line to Sioux City of Chicago & North Western Ry

Bus Stations: Union, 16th and Jackson Sts., for Union Pacific, Interstate, Chicago & North Western, Paul Davis, C. C. Cotner, and Omaha-Wahoo 1416-18 Douglas St., for Burlington, Arrow. 401 S. 15th St., for Missouri, Pacific, and Arrow.

Airport: Municipal, East Omaha at Carter Lake, 5 miles from downtown for United & Mid Continental Air Lines; streetcar service, transfer to local bus; taxi fare, special rate, 75¢.

Taxis: 10¢ and upward according to distance

Streetcars: Operated in connection with city busses, fare 10¢, tokens 3 for 25¢.

Traffic Regulations: Regulation traffic lights in business district; limited parking in downtown section; no U turn where traffic lights are installed; L turn prohibited where warning posted; speed on arterial streets 35 m p h., residence, 30 m.p h., congested districts, 18 m p h.

Street Order and Numbering. Streets running north and south are numbered; east and west, named. Dodge Street is division north and south; numbering begins from Missouri River west.

Accommodations: About 50 hotels, wide range of rates. Tourist camps on West Dodge and Center Sts.

Information Service: American Automobile Association, Logan Hotel, 1802 Dodge St.; Chamber of Commerce, 1700 W.O.W Bldg., 14th & Farnam Sts

Radio Stations: KOIL (1260 kc.); WAAW (660 kc.); WOW (590 kc.); KFAB (770 kc.).

Theaters and Motion Picture Houses: One legitimate theater, winter season; five downtown motion picture houses, occasional revues; two concert halls; 22 neighborhood motion picture houses.

Athletic Centers: Omaha Athletic Club, 17th & Douglas Sts.; Ak-Sar-Ben Coliseum, 66th & Leavenworth Sts.; high school and college facilities

Swimming: Brown, Carter Lake, Morton, Pulaski, Riverview Parks, free. Admission pools, Jewish Community Center, Y M C A., Knights of Columbus Bldg., Krug Park, Peony Park, Camp Brewster.

Tennis: Free courts, at Bemis, Highland, Miller, Kountze, Riverview Parks; fee, 10¢ per person per hour at Dewey, Hanscom, and Woolworth Parks

Golf: Municipal links at Elmwood, Fontenelle, Miller, Benson, and Spring Lake Parks; fee. 9 holes, 15¢, 18 holes, 25¢. Dundee Links, Happy Hollow Blvd. and Davenport Sts., and Valley View Links, 98th and Center Sts., all day play, Sunday, 50¢, weekdays, 35¢.

Amusement Parks: Peony Park, W. Dodge St.; Krug Park, 52d St. & Military Ave.

Annual Events: Jan : Bowling Tournament. Feb.: Boxing Tournament. Mar : Building Show, City Auditorium; Tangier Shrine and Ak-Sar-Ben Circus, Ak-Sar-Ben Coliseum; Electrical Exposition, City Auditorium; Table Tennis Tournament, Rome Hotel Apr Hillcrest Easter Sunday Services, Singing Tower, Hill-Crest Memorial Cemetery; Kennel Show, City Auditorium May: Art Guild Exhibition, Joslyn Memorial, Folk Arts Festival, Paramount Theater; Ak-Sar-Ben Horse Races (until July 4),

Ak-Sar-Ben Track. June: Flower Show, City Auditorium; Speedboat Exhibition and Regatta, Carter Lake Aug. Midwest Music Festival, Creighton Stadium, Festival of Santa Lucia (1 week), S 10th St, St Philomena's Church Sept. Bohemian Grape Festival, Sokol Auditorium Oct. Ak-Sar-Ben Coronation of King and Queen, Ak-Sar-Ben Coliseum, Food Show, City Auditorium; Livestock Show, Ak-Sar-Ben Coliseum. Nov: Auto Show, Ak-Sar-Ben Coliseum; Grand Opera Season opens, City Auditorium; Drama League Season opens.

OMAHA (1,040 alt., 214,006 pop.), spread out along the west bank of the Missouri River for 12 miles, and rising far up on the hills to the west, is an industrial and commercial city in the heart of the farm belt. Though in the past it was a river town, it is now dependent mainly upon the railroads, which bring lead from Colorado to one of the largest smelters in the world, cattle, sheep, and hogs to the third largest livestock market of the Nation; wheat and corn to the Omaha elevators, and to the city's mills and breweries.

Omaha has not yet lost a sense of surprise over becoming a big town: at heart it still is a city in the making, with Saturday-night brawls, "drug-store cowboys," and packing-house workers on parade. Overalls and straw hats are not out of place in the marble lobby of the Livestock Exchange, and an occasional Indian is seen on the streets. The city has the small town's interest in local boys who made good; the front page always has space for the doings of any "former Omahan," whether he wrote a script for Hollywood or was arrested for theft in Denver.

The city is fairly well stratified. It has its low-rent areas in certain districts along the river, and its "exclusive sections" far to the west, for the town has never built along the banks of the shifting river where railroad tracks, factories, and dumps are situated. Life here has more variety than is usual in Nebraska: gambling halls, dime-a-drink girls, formal banquets, a community art museum, conventions, folk festivals of European tradition, and the annual crowning of a King and Queen of Ak-Sar-Ben. The city has many fine high schools, one of the ranking Catholic universities of America, and a municipal university.

Omaha's chief source of civic pride is its system of parks and schools. Omaha is also proud of its Joslyn Memorial, and its metropolitan utilities district, which supplies gas, water, and ice through a municipal agency. Notwithstanding the soot in the air and the odor of the stockyards that pervades South Omaha, the people are practically convinced that although Omaha could be improved upon, it is better than any other town within a thousand miles.

Labor generally is unorganized, and at present (1938) there is a vigorous unionization campaign.

Omaha has a large proportion of home owners. The working people are concentrated in South Omaha and in districts to the east, center, and north of town. Elsewhere, spread out for miles, are the homes of salesmen, advertising men, insurance men, realtors, wholesale officials, refrigerator men, teachers, and second-vice-presidents. Lawns are scanty; the houses are generally square in shape, and roomily built. On some shabby streets are massive black warehouses or rusty dumping fields, with railroad yards



MORMON MONUMENT, BY AVARD FAIRBANKS, FLORENCE

shimmering in the distance. Trees cover the residential districts generously, and there are round hills gashed by broad arterial highways. Large churches rise on green hills to the west; and occasionally, tucked away, is a street almost European in appearance.

The north side Negro district extends for several blocks on 24th St. The Easter Sunday turn-out and the Hallowe'en parade are its most gala occasions. The parade held on Hallowe'en is an authentic folk-festival brought by the Negroes from the South; it expresses the Hallowe'en spirit in harmless release of energy rather than in damage to property. Almost the whole population takes part, in home-made, improvised costumes, sometimes ribald, sometimes weird and grotesque. Two newspapers are published in the district; rival political factions excite much conversation and many editorials.

Omaha is bordered by the Missouri to the east, with its flats, bluffs and woodland, and on the other sides by the rolling plains of the farmlands. Much has been done to change the original setting of the city. The river channel is in process of improvement, with the object of making Omaha once again a river port, and obviating such caprices of the Missouri as the transfer of a bit of Iowa to the Nebraska side, which took place in 1877.

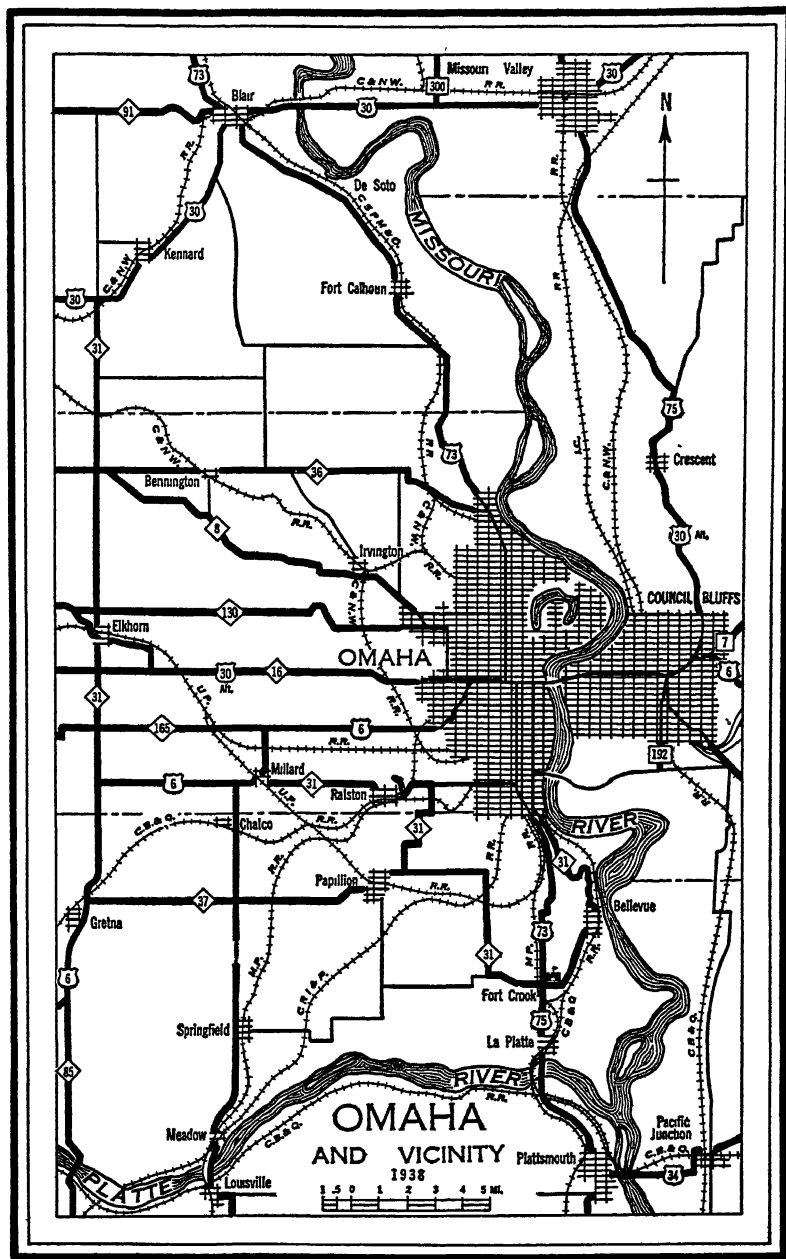
The bottoms, occupied by the railroads, were flooded disastrously in 1881. Afterwards, they were filled in, and sporadic dumping since has done much to complete this work. Carter Lake, east of the city at Locust St., was once a swamp, but silt was removed as part of the Carter Park improvements financed largely by donations from Mrs. E. J. Cornish. The surrounding bog was filled in and is now occupied by the municipal airport and Levi Carter Park.

The altitude of the city varies about 350 feet. Grading and filling in the downtown area have done away with as much as 60 feet of mound or ravine; but to the west, Omaha's characteristic hills remain untouched. Many creeks that were dangerous torrents in rainy weather are now merely memories, and it is impossible to trace their original path across the city.

Although the mean temperature is 50 degrees Fahrenheit, temperatures of 30 degrees below and 114 above zero have been recorded. In July and August, sleeping on the lawn of Central High School is a community habit. Tornadoes are rare, though the one of Easter Sunday, 1913, made up for all those that never came. Average yearly rainfall is 30 inches; 75 percent falls during the growing season, from April to September.

The site of Omaha was passed by Lewis and Clark (1804), the westward-bound Hunt-Astor party (1810), and the Stephen Long expedition (1819). A few canny fur-traders lived on the site of Omaha as far back as the 1820's: Manuel Lisa, a Spaniard, Jean Pierre Cabanne, a Frenchman, and a certain Roye or Royce.

As early as 1852, land sharks, speculators, and settlers began to congregate in Council Bluffs, Iowa, across the river, awaiting a treaty between the Government and the Indians that would open Nebraska for settlement. Impatient with waiting, several emigrants crossed the river and staked claims, although the land still belonged to the Omaha Indians. The emi-



grants retreated to Council Bluffs, however, and waited until the treaty was concluded before they took possession.

Omaha's first boom began immediately upon conclusion of the treaty, June 24, 1854. The Council Bluffs & Nebraska Ferry Company lost no time in naming the town for the dispossessed Omaha Indians, and in having it surveyed and platted. In September an elaborate map appeared, recording the existence of a newspaper and the construction of a brick building, suitable for the Territorial Legislature. Though no Territorial capital had been officially selected, the first legislature met in Omaha January 16, 1855. At first, few lived in the new town: many slept in Council Bluffs while cabins were being built. By the end of the first year, about 20 buildings marked the spot where Omaha now stands.

Among the early settlers were A. J. Poppleton, John M. Thayer, Andrew J. Hanscom, Dr. George L. Miller, the Creightons, the Kountze brothers, William A. Paxton, Byron Reed, James M. Woolworth, James E. Boyd, and Joseph H. Millard. These were the men who made Omaha, most of them the sons of farmers or common laborers, who had seized upon the money-making opportunities of the West. They rapidly built up fortunes, some of which compare with the largest in America. These men were hardy, as the West demanded, and quite capable of taking care of themselves under any circumstances. They won their start in freighting, wholesaling, real estate, building telegraph lines across the continent, and cattle-raising. With the fortunes thus gained they backed every enterprise that encouraged the growth of the city.

By 1857 the boomers had given Omaha more than one addition. The town of Saratoga lay to the north; between this and Omaha was Scrip Town that included the area north of present Cuming St.; Capital Addition lay west of Twentieth St. and south of Capitol Hill. A sawmill, a smithy, and a brickyard formed the foundation of Omaha's industry. In 1858 the capitol was finished and, when not in use by the legislature, it was used as a school. The mercantile establishment of Megeath & Company ran delivery wagons from Omaha to Florence, the outfitting post of Mormon emigrants, six miles north, selling goods amounting to \$2,000 a day. This was the beginning of Omaha's trade with emigrants, an important factor in the growth of the town.

Most of Omaha's early settlers neither knew nor cared to know the Federal land laws. They organized a Claim Club to protect an allowance of 320 acres a person, as against the Government's 160, and passed a resolution that "persons shielding themselves under the Act of Congress to preempt a man's farm under color of law, shall be treated by us as any other common thief." Although a certain amount of injustice resulted, the community was to a large extent benefited, since claim jumping and claim quarrels were all too common. Only the arbitrary power of the club in using extreme measures prevented bloodshed. In the beginning, when each man was required to improve his claim and to live upon it, the members of the Claim Club built a house on wheels and moved it from one claim to another, so that each might say that he resided upon his claim. When a part of the claim of Postmaster A. D. Jones was staked by a

Frenchman, Cam Reeves, a Missourian, was induced to come across the river to forcibly eject the offender. Such crowds came to witness the fight that it took three trips of Brown's ferry boat to transport them. The battle was long but the Frenchman finally fled to Iowa. The performance of Cam Reeves in this fight was so satisfactory that he was soon afterward elected sheriff. Even Acting Governor Thomas B. Cuming was benefited by the club and offered no objection when the members of that body ducked an Irishman named Callahan beneath the waters of the ice-bound river because he had been bold enough to file upon the Governor's claim while hired to work there as a laborer. In later years, the U. S. Supreme Court upheld these titles, contending that it could not rule against local decisions of pioneer justice.

The claimants also broke the law by hiring persons to preempt land for them. By this method, many became owners of real estate. Lawlessness flourished. Skulls-and-cross-bones drawn on cabin doors warned occupants that the citizens would not permit their presence in Omaha. Now and then there were lynchings. In March 1858 two horse thieves were lynched by a small Omaha crowd a few miles north of Florence. The lynchers had only one rope, so they slung it over a limb and put both ends to use. In another case the citizens held a trial at which only the law and the two defendants were missing. They appointed a judge and jury from their own number, and the absent defendants were represented by other members of the crowd. The jury recommended leniency for the one, death for the other; so the crowd proceeded to the jail and carried out its sentence with a fervor somewhat more than judicial.

In 1857 the newly incorporated city had the first meeting of its city council. It considered regulation of bowling alleys and billiard rooms, establishment of a pound, regulation of liquor sales, suppression of gambling, and selection of an engineer. It also sponsored a \$75,000 municipal hotel, since private enterprise could not stand the expenditure. The treasury was impoverished by a donation of \$60,000 toward a new capitol, and the city issued scrip for the same amount. The panic of 1857, which followed soon after, made this experiment a failure. The council had other means, however, to balance the budget: it usually slashed in half the bills presented to the city, and allowed citizens to work out their poll tax by clearing brush from the streets. For nine years Omaha got along with but one policeman; in 1866 the force was increased to four.

In 1859 the city began to grow again in one of its characteristic sudden progressions. Emigrants and gold seekers made the city their outfitting point, and Omaha merchants carried on a thriving trade. At times arrivals at the Omaha levee averaged a steamboat daily, and there was already a tradition that the first boat in spring was to be greeted with cannon and a universal suspension of work "to see the boat come in." During 1859, 268 steamboats arrived at Omaha.

Then the railroads came. The town was elated when Abraham Lincoln selected Council Bluffs as the terminal of the Union Pacific Line; later, engineers and Douglas County bonds brought it across the river to Omaha. In 1863 the construction of the Union Pacific formally began. Two years

later, the first train from Omaha ran to Salings' Grove with Gen. W. T. Sherman, of Civil War fame, and 20 leading citizens riding on flat cars with nail kegs for seats.

The boom continued. Trade was extended to distant points west, manufacturing increased, and many business firms came over from Council Bluffs. From the Missouri to Capitol Hill the streets were filled with men dressed in frontier garb and carrying packs, with loitering Indians, active businessmen, gamblers, and all the characters common to a frontier town. In *Harpers Magazine*, September 1869, appeared the following ditty by John G. Saxe:

Hast ever been in Omaha
Where rolls the dark Missouri down,
Where four strong horses scarce can draw
An empty wagon through the town?

Where sand is blown from every mound
To fill your eyes and ears and throat;
Where all the steamboats are aground,
And all the houses are afloat?

Where theatres are all the run
And bloody scalpers come to trade;
Where everything is overdone,
And everybody underpaid?

Where whisky shops the livelong night
Are vending out their poison juice,
Where men are often pretty tight
And women often pretty loose?

Where taverns have an anxious guest,
For every corner, shelf and crack;
With half the people going west,
And all the others coming back?

If not, take heed to what I say,
You'll find it just as I have found it,
And if it lies upon your way
For God's sake, reader, go around it!

The eccentric capitalist, George F. Train, was a great Omaha boomer until the crash of the seventies. In the *Omaha City Directory* of 1871 is the following entry concerning him

Train, George Francis — N P A. Owner of
5,000 lots, a hotel, and 10 other buildings
in Omaha, 1,000 lots in Council Bluffs, and
7,000 lots and a hotel in Columbus.

It is said that the initials N. P. A. after his name stood for Next President



UNION STATION, OMAHA

of America. Train ran for the Presidency in 1872 as an independent candidate. Shortly afterward, while jailed in the Tombs prison in New York for circulating obscene literature (he had quoted certain Biblical passages in his paper), he lost his real estate in Omaha. But this was of little consequence, as he had made several fortunes in his long career.

The Omaha Horse Railway Company laid its first track during this boom period, and the first gas works was built. By 1870 there were 100 street lamps and 198 consumers of gas. Shortly thereafter, the Union Pacific shops opened and the first meat-packing plant was established.

In the next decade (despite temporary set-backs caused by the panic of 1873, a severe drought, and a grasshopper plague) Omaha laid the foundation of its economic independence. In 1870, a new postoffice building was erected; in 1872 a new high school (designed for future needs) was completed on the site of the Territorial capitol at a cost of \$225,000; in 1877 a public library was opened; and in 1878 Creighton University was founded by provision of the will of Mrs. Edward Creighton, who died in 1876. New industries, including a smelting plant, small grain elevators, and meat-packing plants were established; and the Union Pacific Railway bridged the Missouri.

The most important development of the eighties was the establishment of the Union Stockyards. For some time these yards had been merely a feeding station for stock in transit to the East. But speculators and traders arrived, then feed buyers and farmers, buyers from packing houses, and finally the packers themselves. With the establishment of great packing

houses, thousands of immigrants, the majority Southern Europeans, came to the city, as well as such picturesque characters as the Cudahys, whose story makes up a large part of the history of Omaha. This was the heyday of the Paxtons, John A. Creighton, J. L. Brandeis, the Kountzes, and others who brought Omaha into the limelight. Simultaneously, the underworld began to grow. Fortunes were won in gambling; an old-time actor said that "Omaha was known from ocean to ocean with cards, dice, or whatever you wanted to gamble with."

After the flood of 1881 many Council Bluffs citizens who wanted to move to higher ground settled in Omaha. Another real estate boom ensued. Civic improvements included an opera house, the first waterworks (previous to this, the citizens drank well water, or, when this failed, Missouri River water that had been allowed to settle), the first asphalt paving, an electric light company, and an electric street railway. Six street railway companies competed, doing construction work at night. At the same time, 52 brickyards were turning out more than 150,000,000 bricks a year; the University of Nebraska established its Medical College at Omaha; and the first skyscraper in the city, the New York Life Insurance Building, was built.

The city, however, soon experienced the terrible trials of the nineties—panic, grasshoppers, and drought. Relief was a pressing problem; strange political philosophies flourished. It was then that the suburbs of Dundee and Benson were founded, and South Omaha increased greatly in population. Omaha businessmen founded a Chamber of Commerce, and the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben was formed "to promote patriotism among the citizens." The Knights organized the Trans-Mississippi Exposition, which did much to attract attention to Omaha. Fortunes were still being quietly built, although as late as 1892 total capital invested in Omaha manufactures was only a little over \$12,000,000.

In the early 1900's, during a flurry of prosperity, the Omaha Grain Ex-

KEY TO OMAHA MAP

DOWNTOWN AREA

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 1. The Douglas Street Bridge | 12. Omaha Club Building |
| 2. American Smelting and Refining Co. Plant | 13. Masonic Temple |
| 3. Site of the Herndon House | 14. Omaha Public Library |
| 4. Site of the First Territorial Capitol | 15. Douglas County Courthouse |
| 5. City Emergency Hospital | 16. Site of the Cottage of Edward Rosewater |
| 6. Site of the Diamond Gambling House | 17. World-Herald Building |
| 7. Union Pacific Headquarters | 18. Site of the Douglas House |
| 8. The Federal Building | 19. Site of the Apex Saloon |
| 9. Post Office | 20. Site of the City Hotel |
| 10. Capitol Hill | 21. Site of the St. Nicholas Boarding House |
| 11. Joslyn Memorial | 22. Municipal Auditorium |
| | 23. Union Passenger Terminal |

change was organized. This organization had a great part in the development of Omaha as a grain market. Another and more severe depression came in 1907, however, and continued for four years.

Beginning in 1910, Omaha grew rapidly and constantly until the depression that began in 1929, with only the Easter tornado of 1913, which inflicted a heavy death toll, as a major calamity. The city rapidly attained distinctions which school children learned to count off on their fingers: "Omaha macaroni is sold in Italy! . . . Omaha pig lead is sold all over the world!" Omaha's numerous hotels became centers for conventions of all kinds. Fortunes mounted, and districts more exclusive than ever—such as Happy Hollow and Fair Acres—were platted and occupied.

Meanwhile, a second crop of famous characters came into the limelight. The Joslyns in their castle listened to music and discussed endowing a public concert hall; Tom Dennison, a gambler, driven into politics to protect his gambling interests, became the city's political boss. Dennison's reign began early in the century and continued till his death in 1934. It is stated that he paid for more funerals, handed out more meal tickets, dug down in his pocket for more room rents and more tons of coal than any other individual in Nebraska. James C. Dahlman, Omaha's perennial mayor, got his start in politics under the wing of William Jennings Bryan; he was mayor for 21 years, and died in office. Gilbert M. Hitchcock and Robert B. Howell became U. S. Senators, and were prominent political figures. Hitchcock, publisher of the Omaha *World-Herald*, wielded tremendous influence through his paper. Arthur F. Mullen of Omaha became a power in the Democratic Party.

When the 1929 depression struck, Omaha tried to take it lightly; but the years of drought and frozen credit picked off one "first" after another, reducing the city's livestock market to "third," and played havoc with the grain market. Heavy relief problems drained the county finances, but an inflow of Federal funds relieved the most pressing relief problems. In the milk strike of 1933 the roads into Omaha were picketed by farmers who overturned milk trucks, but Omaha did not sympathize with them. When the streetcar strike came in 1934, however, sentiment was favorable to the strikers and for a time there was a surprising demonstration of public solidarity.

The sources of wealth have shifted from generation to generation. As the last outfitting post for the West, Omaha grew rich. Emigrants, gold seekers, Mormons, freighters, Indians, speculators, and land sharks all contributed.

As the West developed, Omaha became a wholesaling center for farmers and cattlemen. Carriage factories, breweries, brickyards, iron works, flour mills, wholesale houses, department stores, and barbed-wire factories were built at this time. Some failed, some grew. This phase of Omaha's economic prosperity grew out of the construction of railroads, which gave Omaha a dominating position at the center of transport and linked it with the entire Northwest. The packing industry, established in the eighties, strengthened the financial position of modern Omaha, but transportation has remained the most important source of revenue.

At first Missouri River steamboats constituted the main link with eastern industry. At the height of river traffic thousands of tons of goods were brought up the river by steamboat. There were some attempts to invest the "steamboat golden age" with "the glamour of the Old South," but, although there were steamboat dances at which "gallant" captains were present, most stories about the old steamboats recall liquor smuggling to the Indians, or wreckage on the snags of the Missouri. At one time, when growing Omaha had not enough housing for its new citizens, a steamboat accommodating 250 persons was purchased to serve as a hotel.

Meanwhile an acute transportation problem—the hauling of fuel for the rapidly growing local industries—was solved by the coming of the railroad. The first to arrive was the Union Pacific, which made its initial trip west of the river in 1865. A bridge for the Union Pacific did away with ferry transport for freight goods from the East in 1872. Following the Union Pacific, seven other railroad lines entered Omaha.

Since 1900 transportation facilities have included bus lines and airplanes. When the automobile was introduced, about 1910, dealers for each make advertised that their cars could beat any other from Pappio Bridge to the top of the brick hill on the west. The challenges to race from Omaha to Denver were numerous. The automobile has brought a high mortality record to Omaha, and efforts to stop accidents resulted in another "first" for the city in 1937—an award by the National Safety Council.

After the first Omaha airport, at Ak-Sar-Ben field, was wrecked by a tornado, the present municipal airport was constructed. Omaha is an important stop for transcontinental air traffic.

In brief, Omaha was founded by speculators, had an early boom followed by a disastrous depression, and the years since have been a repetition of that cycle. In droughts, depressions, tornados, and bank failures, Omaha lost population and wealth, but always emerged to grow greater and more rapidly than before. Omaha has never lost any asset of importance except the State capital.

The city, served by 10 trunk lines, is the main railroad center of Nebraska. The general headquarters of the Union Pacific Railroad and the local offices of 16 other roads are at Omaha. More than 150 trains enter and leave the city daily. Three highway and two railroad bridges connect with the city of Council Bluffs, Iowa, across the Missouri River.

If the number of nationalities represented in its population is any criterion, Omaha is a cosmopolitan city. Eighty percent of the populace is native-born white, but this figure gives no indication of the thousands of people of foreign extraction who are included. The early American stock has been thoroughly mixed with German, Danish, Swedish, Slavic, and Irish from Omaha's earliest settlement. Large foreign-born groups include the Germans, Czechs, Swedes, Irish, Danes, Italians, and Poles; smaller groups include English, Jews, Russians, Canadians, Jugo-Slavs, Lithuanians, Greeks, French, Swiss, Belgians, Dutch, Welsh, and Mexicans. The total foreign-born white population is 28,788; the total Negro population, 11,123. Most national groups have their own social centers, such as Sokol Hall, Vennelyst Park, the Jewish Community Center, the Urban

League, and so on. An International Folk Arts Society, organized in 1926, perpetuates the art and culture of the Old World among the foreign-born; annually, it holds its Folk Arts Festival. The Poles, whose first settler arrived in the sixties, settled in "Sheely Town," northwest of the stockyards around the Sheely Packing Company plant. Like the Mexicans, the Poles are employed chiefly in packing and railroading. The Mexican population varies during the seasons from 1,000 to 2,000, for in summer many leave Omaha to work on farms.

The Jews have most of their business establishments on N. Sixteenth St. and N. Twenty-fourth St. They are organized largely through the Community Center and the synagogues, and have contributed much to Omaha culture.

The Danes, who did so much in building Omaha, especially in connection with the dairies of South Omaha, have their own park where they annually celebrate their Constitution Day. The Germans remain a distinct national group, with their music societies and their German-language newspapers. Some are descendants of the old German colonists of Quincy, Illinois. The Swedes, who have a large national group, annually present a folk festival at Elmwood Park, in midsummer.

POINTS OF INTEREST

(For Nos. 1-23 see *Downtown Area Map*)

1. The DOUGLAS STREET TOLL BRIDGE (*15¢ car and driver, 5¢ each passenger*), foot of Douglas St., a truss-type span with wooden block roadway, was built in 1887-1889. The total length of the bridge and its approaches is about 1.5 miles. In 1924 it was widened from 24 to 40 feet and span supports were added for greater safety.

2. The AMERICAN SMELTING AND REFINING PLANT (*not open to public*), 5th and Douglas Sts., covers 13 acres and has 60 separate buildings. The 312-foot smokestack is said to be the highest self-supported metal stack in existence. All railroads entering Omaha have trackage on the grounds. The plant, one of the world's largest producers of desilverized lead, produces annually an average of 150,000 tons of this metal. Two hundred men are employed.

The Omaha Smelter was organized in 1870 with a capital stock of \$60,000. In 1882, when it consolidated with the Grant Smelting Co., of Denver, the name was changed to Omaha and Grant Smelting Co., and the stock was increased to \$2,500,000. The American Smelting and Refining Co. acquired the plant May 1, 1889.

3. The SITE OF THE HERNDON HOUSE, NE. corner 9th and Farnam Sts., is occupied by a farm machinery company. The Herndon House, built as a municipal enterprise in 1858, was the headquarters of the Overland Stage.

In May 1867 George Francis Train, eccentric promoter, was breakfasting with a few friends in the hotel when a sudden windstorm came up. Train requested a Negro to stand with his back against a window which

he feared would be blown in. When the hotel steward protested this "outrage to the Negro race," Train became angry and declared he would construct a better hotel within 60 days. Train carried out his threat. Within 60 days he completed the Cozzens Hotel, on the southeast corner of 9th and Harney Sts. The site is now occupied by a paper company.

4. The SITE OF THE FIRST TERRITORIAL CAPITOL, W. side of 9th St. between Farnam and Douglas Sts., is occupied by the U. S. Rubber Products Building. The first capitol building was a gift to the city of Omaha. The ferry company, which laid out the town site, determined Omaha should become the capital of the new territory and built a brick capitol at a cost of \$3,000. In this building, supplied without cost to the Territory, and scarcely completed, the first session of the legislature, which convened in January 1855, was held.

5. The CITY EMERGENCY HOSPITAL, 912 Douglas St., is a three-story building with a semi-basement. It has double bay windows on the first and second floors. Built in the eighties of red brick, the house is typically mid-Victorian in style. It is equipped with 46 beds and is used exclusively for cases of contagious diseases. A venereal clinic also is maintained. There are six nurses and one interne on duty. The building and grounds were willed to the city by Anna Wilson, a notorious queen of Omaha's underworld, who had accumulated a fortune of nearly a quarter of a million dollars when she died in 1911. Much of the interior ornamentation that made this place famous as the property of Anna Wilson still remains. The trim of the foyer is richly carved and there are elaborate panels in the large bathrooms.

When Anna Wilson gave to the city the building she had operated for many years as a resort of ill-fame, there was considerable talk as to whether such a gift was to be accepted. But in the end the city took over the property. The stone porch columns of carved nude women were removed and unadorned wooden ones substituted. When she was young Anna Wilson was the sweetheart of Dan Allen, the gambler. Allen died in 1884 and was buried in Prospect Hill cemetery; Anna was buried by his side.

6. A pawnshop occupies the SITE OF THE DIAMOND GAMBLING HOUSE, 1312 Douglas St. The Diamond was the ornate gambling establishment of Charles D. Bibbins, H. B. Kennedy, Charles White, and Jack Morrison, who were the "Big Four" among Omaha gamblers in 1887. They successfully operated their resort until 1893, when it was closed by town officials. Old timers recall the Diamond as the most luxurious of all Omaha gambling resorts. The first floor was taken up by a barroom and a billiard parlor. Often an unsuspecting stranger on entering the barroom would attempt to pick up a gold piece firmly embedded in the floor. The victim of the practical joke would have to buy drinks for the house. Expensive mirrors and pictures of horses and beautiful women decorated the walls. The second floor of the establishment was devoted to faro, roulette, hazard, stud poker, and other games of chance and "skill." Many fortunes were won and lost at the Diamond. The building was torn down in 1936. A portion of the west wall, covered with tiled mosaic, remains.

7. UNION PACIFIC HEADQUARTERS, NE. corner 15th and Dodge

Sts., contains a MUSEUM on the first floor, Room 116 (*open 10-12 and 2-4, weekdays; guide service*). The Lincoln corner includes pictures, letters, and furniture from the funeral car, along with a model of the car used to transport the President's body from Washington to Springfield, Ill., for burial. Other collections include souvenirs of the Civil War; objects of interest in the development of the Union Pacific Railroad; Indian and pioneer relics; and books and letter files on Union Pacific history.

8. Completed in 1933, the FEDERAL BUILDING, SW. corner of 15th and Dodge St., an 11-story granite, limestone, and brick structure of modern design, is the work of Kimball, Steele, and Sandham, and George B. Prinz, architects. It houses the local offices of the Army, Navy, Customs, Revenue and other Governmental departments. It occupies the site of the first U. S. Courthouse and Postoffice, built in 1872. It was in this first courthouse that Col. Watson B. Smith of the Circuit Court was murdered on November 4, 1881. The building was later known as the Army Building, serving as headquarters of the Department of the Platte; it was demolished to make way for the present Federal Building.

9. The OMAHA POSTOFFICE, between 16th and 17th Sts., Dodge St. and Capitol Ave., is a four-story building of Romanesque design with a central tower on the east rising 190 feet. The loggia and walls of the first story are of St. Cloud pink granite, finished in natural rock face; the upper three stories and the tower are of sandstone. The building was designed under the direction of James Knox Taylor, supervising architect of the Treasury. Construction was started in 1892 and the eastern portion was finished and occupied in 1898; the building was finally completed in 1906 at a cost of nearly \$2,000,000. Part of the site belonged to the Folsom estate, to which Mrs. Grover Cleveland was an heir; since Grover Cleveland was President at the time the site was purchased, there was a charge of favoritism in the choice of location.

10. CAPITOL HILL, between 20th and 22nd Sts., Dodge and Davenport Sts., for a decade the site of the Nebraska Territorial capitol, appears in history for the first time with a 4th of July celebration in 1854. A picnic party from Council Bluffs, Iowa, crossed on the ferry to celebrate the day on the new town site. In response to a toast to Nebraska, offered by John Gillespie, later State auditor, Hadley D. Johnson fired a salute with two blacksmith anvils and started a "spread eagle" speech. The anvil salute consisted of ramming the hole in the top of the anvil with powder, inserting a fuse, turning the anvil upside down and lighting the fuse. The resultant blast sent the anvil more than 100 feet in the air. To the consternation of the party, the report of the anvils attracted a band of Indians who were camping at Sulphur Springs. The women and children were frightened and the entire party hurried to their wagons and drove pell-mell to the ferry landing. They escaped unharmed.

The second Territorial capitol, erected on this hill in 1857-1858, was a handsome structure of brick with a colonnade extending around it. Before the building was completed four of its columns fell with a portion of entablature they supported; then lightning struck and further damaged the building. The entire colonnade was later removed as being unsafe. The

fourth session of the legislature convened here during the winter of 1857-1858 (before the building was completed), its members engaging in fist-cuffs over the old question of moving the capital and passing a resolution to adjourn to Florence. Governor W. A. Richardson, however, failed to recognize the Florence seceders. The legislature continued to meet in this building until 1867, when the capital was moved to the village of Lancaster, renamed Lincoln.

In 1867 the seat of government finally changed to Lincoln and the capitol grounds became Omaha school property. Between the two walks leading to the south entrance of CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, which today occupies the hill, is a stone tablet commemorating the old capitol. A column at the east entrance also bears a bronze tablet, erected as a memorial by the graduating class of 1910.

11. JOSLYN MEMORIAL (*open 10-5 weekdays, organ concerts 12:15, 3:30; 2-5:30 Sun., lecture 3:30, organ recital 4; 7:30-9:30 3d Fri. monthly; tours 2.00 p.m. daily*) stands just west of Central High School. The monument, of Georgian marble designed with extreme simplicity in a modified classic style, is the work of John and Alan McDonald, architects. At its base is a row of evergreens that form a striking contrast with the soft rose marble walls. The Memorial was built at a cost of \$3,500,000, donated by Sarah Joslyn, as a tribute to her husband, George A. Joslyn, founder of the Nebraska Western Newspaper Union. It was opened to the public in November 1931. The Society of Liberal Arts, founded by Mrs. Joslyn to operate the Memorial, maintains the property.

The severity of the exterior mass is unrelieved by wall openings; the bas-relief panels at the four corners of the building are the only decoration. These panels, from the southeast, counterclockwise, depict in sequence *Civic Builders*, *The Pioneer Press*, *The Dissemination of Intelligence*, *The Homesteaders*, *The Indian Signal Fire*, *Indian Picture Writing*, *The Indian Sign Language*, and *The Indian Prayer for Life*. John David Brcin, the Chicago sculptor, designed the panels and the plaques above the doorways.

The main entrance pavilion is in the form of a colonnaded loggia, flanked by heavy corner pylons. The columns, resembling the classic Ionic order, are designed with polygonal shafts and caps bearing the conventional Indian Thunderbird motif. The decorations of the bronze entrance doors portray the virtues *Industry*, *Charity*, *Faith*, *Courage*, *Vision*, and *Hope*. The round plaques above the south entrance represent the *Red Man* and the *Red Woman*; above the west entrance the *Prospector* and the *Tiller of the Soil*; above the north entrance the *Spanish Conquistador* and the *Christian Scout*. Between the plaques, on each of these three doors, is inscribed a quotation from an Indian legend, written by Dr. Hartley Burr Alexander, who also selected the inscriptions for the Nebraska State Capitol.

In the entrance lobby are two great columns of Porto Oro black and gold marble imported from the Isle of Palmaria, Italy. Each shaft is in two sections and is said to be hewn from the largest and most flawless blocks of Porto Oro ever quarried. The capitals of these columns are of

ivory-toned marble, and their design is based upon the symbol of rain, the Thunderbird.

The focal point of interest of the interior is the FLORAL COURT, where fountains splash into an octagonal pool of blue-green faience tiles embellished with the Thunderbird motif. Rare tropical plants and palms bank the corners. The concert hall on the main floor, with a seating capacity of 1,200, is decorated in soft shades of rose and gray with lighting fixtures of rose. Organ concerts are given here. After Joslyn's death the plan for a public concert hall was enlarged to include an art gallery. The organ, originally in the Joslyn home, was enlarged for the concert hall. The walls above the regal-blue marble wainscoting are paneled with sound-absorbing tile.

Behind the concert stage is the RECEPTION ROOM; its most distinguishing feature is a large fireplace surmounted by a tapering hood worked in gold leaf and tones of blue green. The hearth of Benou Jaune marble duplicates the fireplace in the Joslyn home. The beamed ceiling and wainscoting are walnut inlaid with peroba. The floor is teakwood. Here, as elsewhere throughout the Memorial, the Thunderbird is the dominant decorative theme.

In the library unit, which consists of five rooms on the ground floor, are books, magazines, and pamphlets on all phases of art.

The Joslyn Memorial has numerous art collections that are shifted frequently to make room for traveling exhibits. Among permanent collections are the collection from the Art Institute of Omaha, including paintings, drawings, prints, textiles, sculptures, ceramics, metal, and pottery; the Barclay Chadwick collection of porcelain, silver, and crystal; the Guy Barton collection of paintings, furniture, and art objects; the collection from Danish Women of Omaha, including pottery and silver; the Mr. and Mrs. C. N. Dietz collection of paintings and art objects; the Mary D. Flynt collection of Mexican crafts; the Dr. and Mrs. A. F. Jonas collection of Phoenician glass; the Mrs. George W. Megeath collection of sculpture; the Mrs. William Newton collection of ivory, jade, porcelain, and textiles; the Omaha Friends of Art collection of paintings; the Henry W. Ranger collection of paintings; the Mrs. John R. Ringwalt collection of Greek glass; the Helen Wells Seymour collection of oriental textiles; and the Mrs. Florence D. Warner collection of paintings and porcelains.

Special exhibitions are on display monthly. These include oil paintings, water colors, etchings, camera studies, and other exhibits on loan from Eastern and European museums. Numerous lectures, concerts, and demonstrations are given at the memorial throughout the year.

12. The OMAHA CLUB BUILDING, NW. corner 20th and Douglas Sts., was—for a day—the executive mansion of the United States, and also for a few hours, a jail. On President's Day, during the Jubilee Week of the Trans-Mississippi Exposition in 1898, President McKinley visited Omaha. The official flag of the Chief Executive floated from the club's flagstaff during the President's stay.

In 1905 two cattle barons were convicted in the Omaha Federal Court for unlawfully fencing Government land in Sheridan County. They were

sentenced to spend six hours in the custody of the United States Marshal. The marshal turned them over to their attorney, who took them to the Omaha Club for lunch and entertainment. This so angered President Theodore Roosevelt, who had twice enjoyed hospitality and had a "bully time" at the Omaha Club, that he dismissed the United States Marshal at once by telegraph, and kept the wires hot with wrathful dispatches at the procedure.

The three-story building, of Italian Renaissance architecture, is rectangular in plan. The basement floor is of light granite, the first story of buff brick and the upper stories of buff brick trimmed in cream terra cotta. The main entrance, on Douglas Street, includes an ornate but dignified doorway approached by a flight of steps flanked by a wrought iron railing. The Omaha Club is an organization of local businessmen.

13. The MASONIC TEMPLE (*open 8 a.m.-9 p.m.*), NE. corner 19th and Douglas Sts., is a seven-story structure of gray stone and gray brick. The first story is of plain graystone, save for short columns at the entrance on 19th St., which support an arch extending to the third floor. The walls at the second floor level are decorated with masonic emblems carved in the stone, and the upper floors are decorated with pilasters surmounted by carved capitals. In the reading room on the third floor is the COLLECTION OF WEAPONS (*open 8 a.m.-9 p.m. daily*) of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska, A.F. & A.M. The exhibit is in glass cases extending from floor to ceiling on the east side of the room, which includes crossbows, battle axes, swords, daggers, spears, guns and curios from many countries. A razor bears the name of George Washington. The collection was donated from a number of sources, and though all pieces are numbered their individual histories were destroyed by a fire.

14. The OMAHA PUBLIC LIBRARY (*open 9-9 weekdays; 2-9 Sun.*), SE. corner 19th and Harney Sts., was completed in 1893. It is constructed of hydraulic pressed brick and is designed in the Italian Renaissance style by Walker and Kimball of Boston. Cameo-like medallions border the top cornice, immediately above the names of famous authors carved above each window on the third floor.

The library was started in 1871 as a private institution; subscriptions were sold to citizens at \$10 a share. This system existed until 1877 when it was taken over by the city. The first library room was on the second floor of a building at 15th and Dodge Sts. As larger quarters were needed, it was moved from place to place until in 1891 the city received the site of the present building by the will of Byron Reed on condition that a "first-class, fireproof building suitable for a public library and art gallery be built upon the lot." Bonds were voted for the erection of the present building.

Housed in separate rooms of the library is the Byron Reed Collection, which consists of rare and valuable coins, metals, paper money, bonds and drafts, and also Reed's private library of books, documents, manuscripts, files of newspapers, and literary relics. Also on display is a large collection of Indian curios accumulated by Pat Ryan, a character of early days. This collection was presented to the library by General Manderson.

Another collection contains Babylonian tablets presented by C. M. Dietz, who was president of the library board for a number of years. There is an archeological exhibit presented by Dr. Robert F. Gilder, Omaha archeologist, consisting of objects uncovered during a survey, 1907-1912, in Douglas and Washington Counties.

In 1938 the library contained 202,000 volumes and a nearly complete file of Omaha newspapers.

15. The DOUGLAS COUNTY COURTHOUSE, Farnam St., between 17th and 18th Sts., was completed in 1912 at a cost of \$1,000,000. The first courthouse, finished in 1858 at a cost of \$40,000, stood between 15th and 16th Sts. from Douglas to Farnam Sts., an area formerly called Washington Square. The second courthouse was built in 1885 on the present site, but the rapid growth of the city and the increase in the volume of county business made it clear in less than 25 years that a larger, more substantial building was needed to house the various offices and preserve the records.

The present building was designed by John Latenser and Sons, Omaha. The outside walls are of Indiana limestone with very little ornamentation, except for eight huge columns, with Roman Corinthian capitals, which, in groups of four, flank the main entrance on the north. On the interior the halls and corridors are finished with mosaic floors and marble wainscoting. The ceiling of the large lobby has a pattern of small mosaics, and three large circular designs fashioned of marble and mosaics adorn the floor. The rotunda is topped by a dome 110 feet above the floor, its central portion, of stained-glass panels in yellow and purple tones, separated by bronze ribs. Around this glass section, forming the lower half of the dome, are eight large murals, painted by W. H. Rau of New York, depicting the historical growth of Omaha from the early days to the present. The interior walls, stairways and pillars are of marble, with decorative border trims of turquoise and antique ivory or gold. On September 28, 1919, the building was badly damaged by a mob that lynched William Brown, Negro, who was confined in the county jail on the third floor.

On the fifth floor is the G.A.R. ROOM (*open by appointment*), the regular meeting place of the G.A.R., Spanish War Veterans, American War Mothers, Civil War Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and several other similar organizations. The walls are covered with a collection of framed photographs of famous wartime figures, and war mementoes are displayed in curtained cases.

16. The SITE OF THE COTTAGE OF EDWARD ROSEWATER, NW. corner 17th and Farnam Sts., is occupied by the Insurance Building. Rosewater was founder and editor of the *Omaha Bee*. The first number of the newspaper, June 19, 1871, was distributed as a free pamphlet, issued to convince the public of the great need for a Board of Education. This measure was then before the people for ratification and through Rosewater's efforts it carried by a big majority. Rosewater, who introduced the bill in the legislature, was encouraged to continue publication of the *Bee*. It started as an evening paper; the morning edition was added in 1873. In

1888 Rosewater erected the Insurance Building, then known as the Bee Building, at a cost of \$500,000.

Rosewater's career was sometimes stormy. In July 1873, when A. D. Balcombe, editorial manager of *The Republican*, published a vitriolic article about the editor of the *Bee*, Rosewater went out to find "Balky" and punish him with a rawhide whip. The encounter took place at 14th and Douglas Sts., and the editor of the *Bee* began to apply his whip vigorously. Balcombe had the advantage of height and he disarmed Rosewater, threw him on the sidewalk, and sat on him. Jesse Lacy came out from his store and poured red ink on the walk. The battleground remained red until passing footsteps erased it.

The building was bought by the present owners in 1934. The interior was remodeled and a year-round air-conditioning plant was installed. The remodeling attracted Nation-wide attention. In the two-million dollar industrial modernization contest conducted by *Forbes Magazine*, with about 100 contestants, this building won fifth place.

17. The WORLD-HERALD BUILDING (*open; tours 9-10, 2-4 daily except Thurs., Sun.*), NW. corner 15th and Farnam Sts., houses Omaha's oldest large daily newspaper. The *Daily Herald* was founded in 1865 by Lyman Richardson and Dr. George L. Miller. Dr. Miller was editor of the *Herald* for 23 years.

The *Evening World* was founded in 1885 by Gilbert M. Hitchcock, whose interests control the publication today. Street sales of the paper were poor because of the scarcity of the copper cent, which in that day was considered a curio with no place in business transactions. No one carried pennies, yet a nickel was considered too high for a single street copy. Hitchcock, despite caustic criticism, sent out of the city for pecks of shiny new pennies, which he distributed as change throughout the business section. Street sales boomed immediately. Hitchcock served 18 years in the United States House of Representatives and Senate, and was always the driving force behind his publication.

Since 1889, when the *Daily Herald* and the *Evening World* merged, the paper has been known as the *Omaha World-Herald*. In 1894 William Jennings Bryan became editor and held the post for two years, until he was nominated for the Presidency. In 1937 the *World-Herald* bought the *Bee-News*.

18. The SITE OF THE DOUGLAS HOUSE, SW. corner 13th and Harney Sts., is occupied by a gasoline station. The Douglas House was one of the first hotels in Omaha. Headquarters of politicians and speculators, it did an immense business for several years. The theft of half a cheese from the larder of this pioneer inn occasioned one of the first legal actions in Nebraska in which the landlord was both plaintiff and prosecuting attorney. "The jury brought in a verdict of not guilty, at which the landlord flew into a rage and ordered the jury out of the house. This was a most serious situation, as there was no other place to stop. Finally, however, by the persuasion of friends and the return of the half cheese, the landlord relented, and thus ended the first lawsuit in Nebraska."

19. The SITE OF THE APEX SALOON is near the center of the block

bounded by Harney, Farnam, 12th, and 13th Sts., now occupied by the rear of business houses. The saloon was a popular resort in pioneer times. Two horse thieves had been turned over to the settlers by the Pawnee. Because there was no jail, the citizens talked the matter over and decided to shave the heads of the culprits and give each of them 39 lashes. Tied to the liberty pole in front of the saloon and stripped to the waist, the thieves were lashed so severely by an Indian with a heavy rawhide whip that he was stopped. The owners of the stolen stock completed the job.

20. The SITE OF THE CITY HOTEL, SW. corner 11th and Harney Sts., is occupied by the Kirkendall Boot Company Bldg. The old City Hotel was the scene of the reception and grand ball held in honor of Mark W. Izard, second Governor of the Territory, in 1855. Music for the dance was furnished by a lone fiddler from Council Bluffs, Iowa. The floor was icy with frozen scrub-water and several of the dancers fell. When the Governor's son appeared wearing a white vest and white kid gloves, he created a sensation. Men far outnumbered the ladies and had to await their turn to dance. Supper consisted of bacon sandwiches, dried apple pie, and coffee, and was passed to the guests as they stood about the ballroom.

21. The SITE OF THE ST. NICHOLAS BOARDING HOUSE, near 12th and Jackson Sts. (exact location unknown), was sometimes called the "Clam House." Tom Allen built the large log house to board the men who worked in the brickyard. When the short-lived brickyard closed, Mr. and Mrs. William P. Snowden operated the house as a hotel. It must have been good, for when a Muscatine, Iowa, paper made a slighting reference to Omaha as a city of six houses without a hotel, the *Arrow* (Omaha's paper published in Council Bluffs) came back with the following:

"Why, the St Nicholas of New York is not a circumstance to its namesake in our city. Here you may get venison, fowl, bird or fish cooked in any manner you please. You may smoke in the parlor, put your heels upon the sideboard without injury to the furniture, or for variety you may spread your buffalo robe on the green grass and take a comfortable smoke without fear of being run over by a score of woolly-headed servants."

22. The MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM, Howard St. between 14th and 15th Sts., built by the Auditorium Company, was completed in 1904 at a cost of more than \$200,000. This massive, smoke-grimed brick and Bedford stone structure was built to meet the city's need for an auditorium large enough to house the annual horse show, and to accommodate the many conventions held in Omaha. In the early days of the Auditorium, Paderewski and Caruso appeared upon its stage. Sarah Bernhardt played here in *Camille*. Audiences listened to the Vatican Choir, and many of the great orchestras. In 1915 the city purchased the building, which is used principally for wrestling and boxing matches, conventions, and trade exhibits.

23. The UNION PASSENGER TERMINAL, 10th St. between Marcy and Mason Sts., consists of two units, the Union Station and the Burlington Station.

The Union Station, designed by Gilbert Stanley Underwood of Los

Angeles, was completed in 1931. The total cost of the station, which covers 23 acres, was \$3,500,000. The terminal is of steel frame construction on reinforced concrete piling. The massive exterior walls with their buttresses and pylons are of cream-colored glazed terra cotta. Over the doorways at the north entrance are sculptured figures of the brakeman and the locomotive engineer; over the 10th St. entrance are figures of the civil engineer and the railroad mechanic.

At night the exterior of the station is illuminated by flood-lights. In the main waiting room are 10 cathedral-like windows of rose, amber, and green translucent plate glass, flanked by colonnettes of blue Belgian marble, and a wainscoting of black Belgian marble. The interior is lighted by crystal and bronze chandeliers weighing 2,000 pounds each. At the east end is a bronze tablet, commemorating the breaking of the ground to start construction on the Union Pacific Railroad, the laying of the first rail, and the driving of the golden spike at Promontory, Utah, linking the railroads of the East and the West.

On the west wall in the restaurant are six murals by Joseph W. Keller of Los Angeles depicting various stages in the development of transportation.

The Burlington Station, 10th and Mason Sts., a reconstruction of the old Burlington Station, was built at a cost of approximately \$1,000,000, and was dedicated in 1930. The building was designed by Graham, Anderson, Probst and White of Chicago. It is constructed of steel and concrete, faced with Indiana limestone. Ionic columns rise at the north entrance, which faces a U-shaped court. The waiting room is surrounded by a border of gold medallions in bas-relief near the ceiling. Four modern chandeliers of crystal and bronze, each weighing 2,300 pounds, hang from the rose and gold ceiling. The room is completely equipped with overstuffed furniture. A covered concourse to the north connects the Burlington Station with the Union Station.

24. The SITE OF THE LONE TREE FERRY LANDING, E. end of Davenport St. (site not marked), was a meeting place for the settlers. William D. Brown of Mount Pleasant, Iowa, was one of the many who started for California in 1849-1850. Arriving at Council Bluffs, rather than continue westward, he secured a charter, equipped a flat boat, and established a ferry across the Missouri River. It was called the Lone Tree Ferry, but because there were many "lone" trees on the river bank, Mr. Brown was never able to tell which one was responsible for the name. Eventually a company was formed and the Lone Tree Ferry became the Nebraska and Council Bluffs Ferry Company. The new partnership secured a steamboat, the *General Marion*, from Alton, Ill., and hired Charles H. Downs as captain. In April 1854, Downs moved a small house, 12 by 14 feet, by ferry from Council Bluffs to the Nebraska landing and for a time used it as his home. Later, Bill Lane occupied this building and turned it into a gambling house. The early settlers were not purists, but Bill Lane was too tough a character to be tolerated. When the vigilantes

told him to get out, he went to Leavenworth, Kans., taking the house with him.

25. The UNION PACIFIC SHOPS (*open by permission*), 13th and Webster Sts., begun in 1865, and now covering 80 acres, are equipped for the complete overhaul and repair of all running equipment. The first locomotive, the *General Sherman*, or Engine No 1, arrived from St. Louis in 1865 on the packet *Colorado*. The *General McPherson*, known as Number 2, and nicknamed "The Grasshopper," also arrived by steamer from St. Louis. Until the first bridge over the Missouri was completed, in 1872, all machinery and material shipped from the East were brought across the river from the town of Council Bluffs, Iowa, by ferry or on trestles built on the ice in the winter. After the disastrous flood of 1881 the grounds about the shops were filled with dirt, and later with sand pumped from the Missouri River bed. In 1903, shortly after the new power house was built, W. R. McKeen, Jr., then superintendent of motive power, invented the track motorcar.

26. JEFFERSON SQUARE, Chicago St. between 15th and 16th Sts., is the only park remaining of the three originally platted in 1854. Attempts have been made from time to time to convert it into practically everything but a park. On one occasion the State Supreme Court was forced to intervene to keep it a rendezvous for the idle men who crowd its benches. The personnel changes from day to day, but the scene, with its air of frustration and despair, remains the same. A bathhouse installed a few years ago is in considerable demand.

27. CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY (*student guide available, apply Administration Building*), 24th St. between California and Burt Sts., Omaha's first university, is a privately-controlled, privately-endowed institution. It is administered by Catholics, but welcomes non-Catholic students, and although coeducational in its seven professional schools, it has separate liberal arts colleges for men and women. It has a self-perpetuating board of trustees under Jesuit management.

The story of Creighton University properly begins in 1856, when the brothers Edward and John A. Creighton settled in Omaha and laid the foundation for their vast fortune. Mary Lucretia Creighton (d. 1876), widow of Edward Creighton (d. 1874), perpetuated his memory in her will by the bequest of \$100,000 as a trust fund for the establishment of a school. During succeeding years, John A. Creighton gave the school more than \$2,000,000.

In 1879, a year after the school was founded, the Jesuits assumed the trust of the fund. There are now more than 22,000 alumni in this and foreign countries. Its faculty of 300 members teach a student body of over 3,000. The grounds, buildings, and equipment are valued at more than \$5,000,000, with endowment and productive funds estimated at \$3,000,000.

The university has 20 separate units on the main campus of eight blocks, extending from 24th to 27th Sts. from California to Burt Sts. The FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, facing California St., erected in 1930 at a cost of about \$400,000, is a departure from conventional ar-

chitecture. It is characterized by strong vertical lines, and built of white Bedford stone, ornamented chiefly with aluminum spandrels between the windows. The massive main entrance is adorned with bas-reliefs of Edward and John A. Creighton.

Other important buildings on the campus include the Astronomical Observatory, 250 feet north of the main entrance to the college group, a circular brick building capped with a sheet iron dome, erected in 1885; Creighton College Chapel, known as St. John's Church, west of the main building, of Gothic design, built in 1887 and enlarged in 1923; the Gymnasium, at the north of the group, a brick, three-story building erected in 1916; the Law Building, facing the grounds; the Dental College, facing California St.; and the red brick Auditorium, adjacent to motor drive, with seating capacity of 900. At 25th and Cass Sts., one block south of the main group, is the College of Commerce, and the Medical Campus is at 14th and Davenport Sts., including three buildings of dark brick.

The LOGAN FONTENELLE HOMES PROJECT, 20th and 24th Sts., between Paul and Seward Sts., sponsored by the Housing Division of the Public Works Administration, was financed by \$2,000,000, allocated in July 1935. Completed in 1938, there are 29 one- and two-story brick buildings, each having from 4 to 14 units, built in two- to five-room apartments, with laundry service for each unit, and a community center for each block of buildings. Children's playgrounds and parks are included.

28. SULPHUR SPRINGS, between the railroad tracks about three blocks N. of Locust St. viaduct (accessible only on foot), was known to the Indians, who attributed medicinal qualities to its ill-smelling waters. Their unquestioning faith impressed the white man, and many of the early settlers also believed in its healing virtues. The spring still flows, through an iron pipe, but is no longer used for medicinal purposes.

SQUATTERS ROW, 11th and 13th Sts., between Nicholas and Locust Sts., is a village of shacks built of materials salvaged from the Omaha city dump, upon which it stands. At the east end of Nicholas Street many years ago, Mrs. Cornelia (Granny) Weatherford settled upon a tract, and neither floods, police, nor corporations could oust her from her land. Bit by bit she sold it, mostly to the Union Pacific Railroad, until today (1938) she holds but one small lot. Since 1897, however, the laws of Nebraska have not been favorable to squatters, and most of the present inhabitants of the city dump can make no claim to the property upon which they live. Vinegar Flats, Blind Pig Alley, and similar names designate particular sections.

29. LEVI CARTER PARK, around the north shore of Carter Lake, entrances from Carter Blvd. and Ames Ave., is Omaha's largest park. Fishing is good in the lake, which is stocked from State hatcheries. This ox-bow lake was once the channel of the Missouri River, but in July 1877, the "Big Muddy" played one of its pranks by short-circuiting a bend at this point and leaving what had formerly been a peninsula of Iowa on the Nebraska side of the river. The Iowa-Nebraska line, following the former river bed and cutting through the present Carter Lake, has left an odd

pear-shaped segment of Iowa, almost entirely surrounded by Nebraska territory. There are picnic grounds in the park, and a beach for swimming. The tract was given the city by Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Cornish. Mrs. Cornish was the widow of Levi Carter

30. KOUNTZE PARK, 21st St., between Pinckney and Pratt Sts., is the site of the Trans-Mississippi Exposition, held at Omaha in 1898. Forty States and 10 nations had exhibits at the fair. The park is used as a playground, with asphalt tennis courts, and has two small lagoons, where children fish.

31. PRESBYTERIAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY (*open 8-5 daily; guides*), 21st and Wirt Sts., is an endowed institution established in 1891 to prepare young men for the ministry. Classes were first held in one of the Presbyterian churches, and in the old Cozzens Hotel until 1902, when the present building was erected. The three-story building is of tan pressed brick trimmed in white stone with slate roof, triple gables on east and west ends, and a curved stone arch over the entrance.

On the first floor are the reception room, reading room, library of 15,000 volumes, offices, classrooms and chapel; the professors' offices and recreation room are on the second floor; the third floor is given over to dormitories. Dining rooms, kitchen and game rooms are in the basement. The two-block campus is equipped for sports. The school grants the degrees of Bachelor of Theology and Master of Theology, and has a "lay worker's course" in religious education.

32. OMAHA MUNICIPAL UNIVERSITY occupied three buildings at 24th and Evans Sts., until the completion of its new building on the campus west of Elmwood Park, purchased in 1937. It was established in 1909 as the University of Omaha by Dr. Daniel E. Jenkins, with the help of subscriptions secured from citizens, and was transferred to the city in 1931. The faculty consists of 91 members; the student body averages 600.

An innovation in the university's educational program is the work-study plan, initiated in 1936. Under this plan students work six months in local business houses, then study six months, and thus gain a practical, first-hand comprehension of the relationship between college studies and business.

33. MILLER PARK, between 24th and 30th Sts., Kansas and Redick Aves. (main entrance 30th St. and Kansas Ave.), was named for Dr. George L. Miller, early newspaperman and Omaha park commissioner. He was criticized for planting "hoe-handles" in the park. The "hoe-handles" have grown into the birch drive and the redbuds that make this one of the show places of Omaha. The park has a lagoon, pavilion, playgrounds, golf course, and baseball diamond on a 78-acre tract.

34. MINNE LUSA WATERWORKS, between 30th St. and River Drive, entrance at 30th and Howell Sts., was built of Warrensburg sandstone in 1889. The station, surrounded by five acres of landscaped grounds, is on the bank of the Missouri River, from which the city gets its water supply. Omaha's first waterworks system consisted of cisterns built in the center of the streets, to which water was pumped from the river by fire engines.

In 1880 a group of Omaha capitalists formed the City Waterworks Company and obtained a 20-year franchise. Construction on Omaha's first large reservoir was completed in September 1881. The plant was acquired in 1891 by the American Waterworks Corporation of New Jersey. In July 1912, after a long series of protests and litigation carried as high as the United States Supreme Court, ownership passed to the city.

35. From HUMMEL PARK, on River Drive 2 m. N. of Florence, is a panoramic view of the wooded Missouri River Valley and the river. At the northeast entrance of the park is a marker identifying the site of Fort Lisa and the Cabanne trading post about 90 feet from the marker. The site of Fort Lisa has since been more accurately located (*see Tour 1*) at a point farther north. The CABANNE TRADING POST of the American Fur Company was established by Jean Pierre Cabanne about 1824. The post consisted of a row of buildings near the river, among which were stores and the houses of the company employees. Cabanne's own house was two stories high, provided with a balcony. Maj. Joshua Pilcher took charge of the post in 1833, and on the map of J. H. Nicollet, who ascended the Missouri in 1839, the post is called the Old American Trading House.

The SITE OF FLORENCE, now a residential section, was occupied by the Mormons in 1846. They called the place Winter Quarters and made it their last outpost on the long trek to Salt Lake. The Indians welcomed them, looking to them for food and for protection against tribal warfare; but in the end they feared the encroachments of the whites and the Mormons were ejected. Points of Interest 36-39 inclusive, are all situated in this section.

36. WEBER MILL (*open 6 a.m.-8 p.m. weekdays*), 9102 N. 30th St., an independent gristmill built shortly after 1854, is still in operation (1938). It was built of timber sawed by water power and joined with wooden pegs. The mill has been rebuilt several times and only a few of the original timbers remain. The mill pond and paddle wheel were first replaced by steam, and later by electric power. In 1915 an elevator was added on the west.

37. The FLORENCE BANK, 8502 N. 30th St., established in 1856, still has the original nameplate of the first Bank of Florence. The brick for this two-story building was brought from St. Louis by boat.

38. FLORENCE PARK, 30th St. between Mormon and State Sts. and extending to 31st St. (main entrance at corners), is one of the oldest parks in the city. It is a small, level, grassy square of 1.7 acres. On typical park benches dotting the lawns the old settlers gather on sunny days. A large cottonwood tree bears a plaque stating that the tree was planted by Brigham Young when the Mormons wintered in Florence.

39. The claim is made that the MITCHELL HOUSE (*private*), 8314 N. 31st St., is the oldest house in Nebraska still in use. Some assert that Brigham Young once lived in the house. It is a two-story structure, the lower half of brick, the upper of wood, almost completely surrounded by a broad porch supported by stout timbers. In front of the house are evergreen trees set out by James C. Mitchell, who built the house about 1855.

40. In MORMON CEMETERY, SW. corner Northridge Drive and

State St., is a monument in bronze depicting the *Winter Quarters*, by Arvard T. Fairbanks of Detroit, unveiled September 20, 1936, to commemorate the 600 Mormon emigrants buried in this vicinity during the winter of 1846-47, victims of hardship, cold, and disease. The statue is a bronze of two nine-foot figures on a three-foot granite base, depicting a father and mother standing before the open grave of a beloved child.

41. FORT OMAHA, 30th St. between Fort St. and Laurel Ave., main entrance 30th and Fort Sts., is a residential post for the Seventh Corps Area. It was established in 1868 as Sherman Barracks in honor of Lt. Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman of Civil War fame, who completed arrangements for acquiring the land. Soon afterward the name was changed to Omaha Barracks, and in 1878 to Fort Omaha.

In the middle eighties the fort was the social center of the city, where Omaha's "400" held their dances and outings. The post was abandoned in 1896, but was re-established in 1905 as a school for non-commissioned officers of the signal corps. A balloon plant was installed in 1909. In 1912 Fort Omaha was again abandoned and all property moved to Fort Leavenworth, Kans. It was re-opened as a balloon school in 1917. During the World War, 16,000 men attended this school.

42. FONTENELLE PARK, main entrance Fontenelle Blvd. and Ames Ave., acquired by the city in 1892, was named for Chief Logan Fontenelle. Planted with evergreens, it has picnic, playground and athletic equipment.

43. The NEBRASKA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF (*open 8-4.15 weekdays; 2-6 Sun.*), 45th St. and Bedford Ave., was initiated in 1867 when the 12th Territorial Legislature passed an act providing for the perpetual establishment of an Omaha Deaf and Dumb Institute. In 1869, \$15,000 was appropriated for the first building, of red brick with stone trimming. In 1876 a second building was erected and in 1881 the two buildings were connected by a third. A two-story tan brick gymnasium was provided for in 1909. A building to care for small children was built in 1913 and a modern dormitory for older boys in 1933, both structures of red brick. The 23-acre grounds were donated by Omaha citizens. Nebraska children over five years of age with defective speech or hearing are admitted. The course covers 12 grades of regular academic studies, besides special classes in domestic science, domestic arts, manual training, printing, gardening, and painting.

44. The WALNUT HILL PUMPING STATION, 38th between Nicholas and Hamilton Sts., has an OBSERVATION DECK 275 feet above the Missouri River from which there is a good view of the city. The grounds are landscaped. Two fountains are illuminated by colored lights at night.

45. DUCHESNE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE (*open 8-8 Mon.-Fri.; guides*), SW. corner 36th and Burt Sts., is a privately-controlled Catholic women's college, non-sectarian in administration, in a select residential section west of the civic center of Omaha. The campus covers 13.5 acres.

Duchesne College, founded in 1881, has four connected buildings, in a modified Tudor Gothic style, each with its own entrance, the Administration Building, the Chapel, the College, and the Academy. It is a tuition

school with accommodations for 75 resident students and 500 day students. It confers the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science. The academy offers pre-school, preparatory, and high school courses. The college has a collection of steel engravings, copies of the frieze in the loggia of the Vatican, illustrating the history of the Popes. The instructors are members of the Society of the Sacred Heart.

The Duchesne College Players, a drama club organized and directed by students, sponsors four major productions each year. An annual Mardi-Gras celebration is held, when the student body elects its queen.

46. ST. CECILIA'S CATHEDRAL, 40th St. between Webster and Burt Sts., begun in 1905, is still under construction (1938). This Roman Catholic cathedral is an imposing structure of Spanish Renaissance design with twin towers, which when completed will stand 225 feet high. The walls are of solid masonry throughout, with an exterior of Indiana limestone. The roof is of Spanish Mission tile. Twenty-two massive limestone consoles rise above the aisle roofs and the apsidal chapels. Around the triple main entrance are grouped four massive Doric columns of Bedford limestone, under which bronze doors lead into the vestibules.

The nave and aisles of the church, finished in Mankato and Kasota stone, are lined with massive piers. A communion rail divides the nave from the sanctuary, which is pierced with marble grill work admitting light from the apsidal chapel windows. Above the bishop's seat of the oak throne is a tooled red leather panel bearing the coat of arms of the reigning bishop, and above this, carved in oak, is the head of St. Cecilia modeled from the painting by Raphael. The interior is mainly finished in marble of various kinds. A votive chapel, known as the Lady Chapel, finished in oak and Minnesota marble of variegated colors, with a marble altar and a statue of Our Lady, opens off the north vestibule. The original plan was drawn by Thos. R. Kimball, added to and completed by the firms of Kimball, Steele, and Sandham of Omaha.

47. The OMAHA COMMUNITY PLAYHOUSE (*open only during rehearsals*), 4004 Davenport St., with a seating capacity of 252, is a theater devoted to local dramatic expression, open to everyone having special talent. It was built of brick and stucco, designed by Alan McDonald, of Omaha, in 1928. The playhouse gives current New York productions, and has a Children's Theater which gives two or three plays annually.

This playhouse has helped develop the talent of Hudson Shotwell, Robert Brinkman, scenic designer, and Henry Fonda, stage and screen actor, who equipped the Playhouse with seats.

48. BROWNELL HALL, Underwood Ave. and 54th St., founded in 1863, is an Episcopalian college-preparatory school for girls, the first established institution of higher education for women in the State. Its first home was near 24th St. and Grand Ave., in what was once the town of Saratoga. The students of the first school were warned not to wander far from the building because of Indians. Pupils arrived in lumber wagons, stage coaches, or on boats. Sometimes they paid their tuition with wood or produce.

The school stands on a wooded campus of 11 acres. Classes are offered

from kindergarten to high school, plus a post-graduate year with French, art, music, dancing, and athletics. TALBOT HOUSE, a two-story rambling cream and tan frame structure, the remodeled J. N. H. Patrick mansion, was formerly the quarters of the Happy Hollow Club, and is now the classroom and office building. WORTHINGTON HALL, completed in 1924, is the dormitory. It is a three-story red brick and stone building completed in 1924 as the first unit of the new plant. Besides the bedrooms, arranged in suites of two with connecting baths, there are small reception rooms, an assembly hall, and a chapel.

49. ELMWOOD PARK, W. of 60th St. between Dodge and Pacific Sts., is a 207-acre wooded tract with a natural spring of cool, pure water. Many people visit the spring carrying jugs and bottles to be filled for home consumption. There are picnic and athletic facilities, an 18-hole golf course, bridle paths, and tennis courts.

Elmwood Park contains an ALASKAN TOTEM POLE, 12 feet high, carved by an Indian named Cu-Yu, of a tribe now extinct, for an Indian chief who believed he had supernatural powers. The death of the chief before its completion enabled R. E. Sunderland to buy it and present it to the Park Department in 1912.

50. AK-SAR-BEN FIELD, entrance at Center St. W. of 60th St., a flat tract of 170 acres, is the property of the Ak-Sar-Ben Exposition Company, and is the scene of various civic activities conducted by the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben. The entire layout of grounds and buildings was designed by George B. Prinz, of Omaha. The brick and cement coliseum, which seats 10,000 persons, was built in 1928. The grounds are also equipped with a mile race-track and a grandstand seating 10,000, horse and cattle barns, a polo field, and a baseball park. On each Monday night during the months of June and July a show is staged in the coliseum. Each year a stage show, written by Omaha men, is presented for guests, who later are initiated into the organization.

The coliseum is also the scene of the Ak-Sar-Ben Ball and Coronation, held each autumn. At this time a king and queen, members of prominent Omaha families, are selected by the board of governors, and crowned with appropriate ceremonies, surrounded by a court of princesses, countesses, and pages.

The history of Ak-Sar-Ben began in 1894 when a committee of Omaha businessmen, returning from New Orleans, were convinced that a festival resembling Mardi-Gras would bring the people of the surrounding country into closer contact with the city. A member of the group suggested the word "Nebraska" spelled backward as an appropriate, catchy name for the festival. A priest, a student of languages, interested in the discussion, suggested that the domain of Ak-Sar-Ben be known as Quivira, the realm of the fabled Seven Cities of Cibola, object of Coronado's ill-fated quest. He also interpreted the syllables comprising the suggested names: Ak, Syrian, meaning head of the household; Sar, Arabic, meaning household; Ben, Hebrew, meaning brother in the household. The whole word is said to signify the king, his domain, and his retainers.

A coat of arms was adopted, with cattle, alfalfa, corn, wheat, and sugar beets incorporated in the design.

Costumes, ceremonials and rituals, devised then, are retained with minor changes. More than 6,000 Omahans have membership in Ak-Sar-Ben, a non-profit enterprise with a board of governors serving without compensation.

51. The UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, 42d St. and Dewey Ave., includes four principal buildings all of red brick with stone trim, simple in design, set in landscaped grounds. The Main Hospital and Administration Building, four stories, includes two units connected by a wide corridor and amphitheater. The central part of the east unit is topped by a promenade paved with tile, and the north and south ends of each unit have glass-enclosed porches. The North and South Laboratory Buildings and Nurses' Home, each three stories in height, flank the main building.

In 1902 the Omaha Medical College, incorporated in 1881, assumed its present name when it entered into an agreement of affiliation with the University of Nebraska, whereby the first two years of the medical course were given at Lincoln, and the last two at Omaha. Since 1913 the university College of Medicine has resumed offering the full four-year course, the first two years of which correspond to the two-year pre-medical course offered at Lincoln.

The college has a high rating, and about 70 are graduated annually. The library has 35,000 bound volumes, 16,000 unbound pamphlets, subscriptions to 300 periodicals, with files of the Omaha-Douglas County Medical Society and of the Nebraska State Medical Society. It has a rare book collection of 2,000 volumes on medicine, science, and chemistry, some dating from the fourteenth century. The PATHOLOGICAL MUSEUM in North Laboratory Building (*open 9-3 weekdays*), contains about 4,000 specimens.

52. The DOUGLAS COUNTY HOSPITAL, 42nd St. between Pacific St. and Woolworth Ave., was designed by John Latenser and Sons, Omaha, and was built in 1932 at a cost of approximately \$1,000,000, including its equipment. It accommodates 400 patients, and has a staff of about 80 physicians and 40 graduate nurses. The building, through a series of setbacks, achieves an extensive veranda and sun-parlor for each floor on the south façade.

53. HANSCOM PARK, 52nd St. between Woolworth and Ed Creighton Aves., a 38-acre tract, was donated to the city in 1872 by Andrew Hanscom and J. G. McGeath, with the stipulation that it remain a park and that \$25,000 be expended on it within five years. It has a pavilion, tennis courts, and picnic grounds

The CONSERVATORY (*open 8-5 daily*), which furnishes plants for the park system, also contains a collection of orchids given by Mrs. George A. Joslyn. Another conservatory, resembling a mosque, is devoted to tropical flowers and ornamental plants. A cannon taken from Santiago, Cuba, during the Spanish-American War, is at the northwest entrance.

54. The UNION STOCKYARDS, S. of I St. between 28th and 36th Sts., include 4,000 stock pens of varying size, covering an area of 160 acres, with 20 miles of alleys connecting the pens. The combined capacity of the pens is 160,000 head. All pens have overhead walks for viewing the stock. They are also equipped with running water, and an average of 4,000,000 gallons of water is used daily. Approximately 8,000,000 head of cattle, sheep, and hogs are sold annually.

The Union Stockyards Company was organized in December 1883, and a plot of ground was purchased for \$78,250. The following year the first consignment of cattle, 531 head, was brought in by the Union Pacific Railroad and reshipped to Chicago.

55. The LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE BUILDING, 29th and M Sts., designed by George B. Prinz, was built in 1926 at a cost of \$1,300,000. The 11-story building of brick and reinforced concrete, which stands out above the stockyards, houses three banks, 15 railroad offices, five brand inspectors' offices, offices of 15 packing houses, and several newspapers. Two Government bureaus have branch offices in the building: the Bureau of Markets and the Bureau of Animal Industry. A banquet room on the 10th floor accommodates 1,200 guests. The building is the headquarters for the livestock exchange, an association of persons who transact their business through the Union Stockyards. The stockholders reside in 39 States of the Union and in nine foreign countries. Among them, strangely enough, women outnumber men.

There is an atmosphere of incongruity about the Stock Exchange Building, for while the methods and equipment used in carrying on this enterprise are as modern as tomorrow, something of the old West seems to linger about the place. Talk of the range is heard in the ornate lobby, and bronzed cattlemen frequent the bar.

56. The CUDAHY PACKING PLANT (*conducted tours 9-2 weekdays*), 36th and O Sts., had its inception in a plant built in 1885 by Sir Thomas Lipton of London, England, internationally-known merchant and yachtsman. The Lipton plant was sold to the Armour-Cudahy Company in 1887 and operated under that name until 1890, when Philip Armour withdrew and it became the Cudahy plant. It includes 20 buildings ranging from one to six stories, scattered over an area of five square blocks. The majority of the buildings are of brick, although the earlier building housing the office is a two-story frame structure. The butchering and processing of meats can be seen in this and other packing plants.

57. The ARMOUR PLANT (*conducted tours 9:15-10:30, 1:15-2:30 weekdays*), 29th and Q Sts., presents an unbroken south wall starting at the west end of the Q Street viaduct and extending westward up the hill for three solid blocks, each section higher in a regular progression, giving a Great-Wall-of-China effect. On the back of the lot, about midway of the plant, is a \$500,000 hog house of brick and cement.

The assembly of buildings presents a rather motley array except for the Administration Building farther up the hill on Q Street. This structure of red brick presents a neat appearance, accentuated by the general unsightliness of the other buildings.



SOUTH OMAHA BRIDGE

58. The SWIFT PACKING PLANT (*conducted tours 9-11, 1-3 weekdays*), 27th and Q Sts., was opened in 1887. It covers approximately eight square blocks, and consists of a collection of brick and stone buildings common to the typical large packing plant.

59. MANDAN PARK, 13th and Harrison Sts., is a 41-acre, wooded tract with rustic paths, ovens and outdoor pavilions. From the high bluffs in the park there is a fine view of the Missouri River. It is thought that Lewis and Clark camped here and gave this site the name Mandan Point.

60. MOUNT VERNON GARDENS, 13th St. between W and Y Sts., is a park landscaped after the manner of the buildings and gardens at the

home of George Washington, Mount Vernon, Va. The Omaha Chapter of the D.A.R. commemorated the bi-centennial of George Washington's birth in 1932 by the erection of a marker on Washington Ridge and the planting of several hundred trees.

Rising from a small landscaped knoll known as Lookout Point, overlooking the Missouri River just south of the George Washington portico is the MONUMENT TO MAXIMILIAN, Prince of Wied, noted explorer, who traveled up the Missouri in 1833. The monument is a huge boulder about five feet high and two feet thick, on one side of which is a bronze plaque. Designed by Carl Gloe, of Omaha, it was erected and dedicated in 1934 by the Federation of German-American Societies of Omaha. On Washington Ridge, at the north entrance to the gardens, is a boulder with a sundial, marking one of the old Overland-Oregon trails.

61. The SOUTH OMAHA BRIDGE (*toll charge, car and driver 15¢, passengers 5¢ each*), 13th St. and Missouri Ave, financed by the Public Works Administration, cost approximately \$1,750,000, and was dedicated in 1936. The west entrance is reached from a landscaped plaza. The toll house in the center is flanked by pylons, illuminated at night. After the first span was completed over dry land west of the river, a series of dikes and pilings forced the stream westward until the old river bed was emptied, and the eastern span was then built over dry land.

62. RIVERVIEW PARK, 9th St. between Funston and Homer Sts., has a baseball diamond, swimming pool, lagoon, and zoo. A MONUMENT TO SCHILLER, designed by Johannes Maihoefer, shows the poet holding a book in his left hand and a pen in the right. The figure, about four feet high, is mounted on a granite pedestal of four and one-half feet, which, in turn, stands on a wide base formed in three low steps. On the front of the pedestal is a bronze lyre within a laurel wreath. The monument stands on a crest in the park, commanding a view of the area. In 1917, stimulated by World War propaganda, vandals attempted to destroy the memorial because it was in honor of a German. After the war, the stone was restored. The Omaha Schwaben Society and other citizens of German birth or descent erected the monument in 1905.

LITTLE BOHEMIA, 13th and William Sts. and vicinity, is the business and recreational center of the Czechs. Many of them are employed in the packing houses in South Omaha. The second generation has learned the English language and accepted American customs; the older folk, however, cling to many of their Old-World ways. Their vegetable and flower gardens are carefully planted and tended.

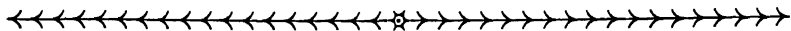
In this section are many Bohemian cafés and business houses, the Sokol Auditorium, and offices for the Sokol Gymnastic Societies, where tournaments, dances, and the gay Bohemian "Grape Harvest" festival are held in the autumn of specified years. The celebration includes an evening of dancing to Bohemian music, native songs, group dances, and short addresses. The hall is decorated with seasonal fruit, and the grape is most prominent. The crowd slyly eats the decorations, though discovery is punishable by fine. Before the evening is over most of the fruit has been eaten and the fund raised from fines goes to Bohemian charities.

LITTLE ITALY, E. of 10th St. on Pierce St. and vicinity, has many little houses that cling to the edges of the river bluffs, ravines and sharp banks. These dwellings are reached by crude stairways, or by steps cut in the clay. Here most of the Omaha Italians live. The inhabitants, for the most part, work on the railroads or in the packing houses. Their goats graze the weed patches; bright flowers bloom in their tiny yards; they patronize Italian tradespeople and celebrate Italian feast days.

In August there is the festival of Santa Lucia, with much visiting back and forth, and a celebration that lasts all day and well into the night. Everyone keeps open house. Italian food is served. Each home hangs out a flag; streets are decorated in Italian colors; and men, women and children appear in native costume. A procession carries the richly dressed image of Santa Lucia through the streets on a raised platform.

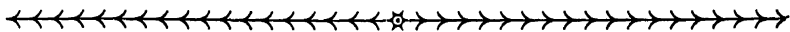
POINTS OF INTEREST IN ENVIRONS

Fort Crook, 10.5 m., Site of Fort Lisa, 12 m., Site of Long's Camp, 12.5 m., Site of Omaha Indian Village, 15.5 m., Site of Fort Atkinson, 16 m., Site of Moses Merrill Mission, 18.7 m. (*see Tour 1*); Fontenelle Forest Reserve, 1.3 m., Bellevue, 5.5 m., Logan Fontenelle Grave, 5.5 m. (*see Side Tour 1A*); Boys Town, 11 m. (*see Tour 9*).



PART III

Tours



Tour I

(Sioux City, Iowa)—South Sioux City—Tekamah—Omaha—Nebraska City—Falls City—(Hiawatha, Kans.) ; US 73-77, 73E, 73-75, 73.
Missouri River at South Sioux City to Kansas Line, 205 m.

Between Dakota City and Winnebago, the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy R. R. parallels the route; between Blair and Omaha, the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Ry., between Omaha and Falls City, the Missouri Pacific R. R. The Mid Continental Air Lines fly this route, but stop only in Omaha. Bus service throughout. Hard-surfaced roadbed except for two stretches of gravel (between Homer and Tekamah, and between a point 5 miles south of Auburn and the junction with State 4).

Accommodations available at short intervals; hotels chiefly in cities.

Between the northeastern and the southeastern corners of Nebraska, US 73 parallels the general course of the Missouri River, here a wide, winding and rather shallow stream, lined with high wooded bluffs on the Nebraska side. In spring and summer the rolling waters of the Big Muddy, rich chocolate in consistency and hue, set off sharply the green of forests, fields and orchards along its banks.

Today traffic does not flow up and down the Missouri, but across it on the great east-west railways and highways that slowly but completely re-orientated the life and activities of the Trans-Mississippi West. But before the railroads and highways were built, the Missouri was a great artery of travel and commerce.

Up the Missouri, the gateway to the Pacific Northwest, came Lewis and Clark in 1804 on their momentous exploration of the newly-purchased Louisiana Territory and of Oregon. Plodding slowly up the western bank, with their small fleet following them, they camped often in what is now Nebraska. Fur traders and trappers followed them—among others, Manuel Lisa, the Astorians, William Ashley, Jedediah Smith, Andrew Henry, Thomas ("Cut Hand") Fitzpatrick. In time many trading posts were established along the river in Nebraska. Down the river each spring came the traders in their bullboats, floating their peltries to the market in St. Louis.

The Missouri also played a part in the legendary career of Mike Fink, or "Phink," as Mike himself liked to spell it to prove his education. Many stories are told of the prowess of that "ring-tailed-roarer," hero of the river boatmen, the Paul Bunyan of his field. Mike and his friend Carpenter, a trapper, often amused themselves by shooting tin cups filled with whiskey from each other's heads at a distance of 70 yards!—just to demonstrate their skill and mutual confidence, they said. Seeing a Negro boy lounging on the river bank one day, Mike felt his sensibilities outraged by the size and shape of the boy's feet. Mike casually shouldered

his rifle and shot off the Negro's heel. He was tried and convicted in spite of his plea that he was merely trying to do a service by modeling the boy's foot to fit a boot such as gentlemen wore.

Along the highway, which is never more than a few miles from the river, the landscape is that of the typical eastern Nebraska prairie. The route passes through river towns, quiet country villages, Indian reservations, several small bustling cities; the orchard district of the State.

Section a. MISSOURI RIVER to OMAHA, 99.2 m. US 73-77, US 73 E, US 73

The highway crosses the Missouri River, 0 m., on a toll bridge (20¢ for car and driver; 5¢ each passenger).

SOUTH SIOUX CITY, 1 m. (1,106 alt., 3,927 pop.) (see Tour 7), is at the junction of US 73 and US 77, which are united between this point and 19.9 m.

At 2.5 m. is the junction (R) with US 20 (see Tour 7).

DAKOTA CITY, 5.2 m. (1,102 alt., 417 pop.), a quiet country town, has one of the widest main streets (300 feet) in Nebraska. The street is, in fact, three streets; a dirt road lies on each side of the paved strip through the center of the town. Dakota City was surveyed and platted in 1855-56, and incorporated two years later.

The site of Dakota City was visited by the Lewis and Clark expedition, which reached the mouth of Omaha Creek in Dakota County on August 16, 1804.

When a branch of the General Land Office was established in Dakota City in 1857, the town aspired to metropolitan status and constructed a three-story hotel with a two-story wing at a cost of \$16,000 in gold. The United States District Court was held here twice a year, adding to the town's official importance. But when Nebraska was admitted as a State, there was a decline. The court no longer met here, and the Land Office was removed to Niobrara. Even the hotel was torn down.

The Dakota City LUTHERAN CHURCH (R), a white frame building with a belfry and green shutters, was the first Lutheran church in Nebraska (1860). It was built at a cost of \$2,000, spent almost entirely for material, as labor was donated. For a number of years it housed the Territorial court.

The Yellow Dakota County COURTHOUSE (R), built in 1870 and still in use, stands just off the highway among trees.

During the early years river traffic attracted many types of people to the town. Father Martin, who edited the Dakota City *Argus* when not doing missionary work among the whites in South Dakota, wrote fiction about many characters in the town. His serial *The Conflict: Love or Money?* included, in only slightly changed form, the names of townspeople he disliked. Atlee Hart, his rival editor, became Atlee Heartless. The story ran for almost 10 years. There were no libel laws, and the editor died of natural causes.

Citizens tell of the day when the steamer *Nugget* sank after hitting a snag in the Missouri River at Dakota City. It was carrying a cargo of



NEBRASKA'S LAST VIRGIN TIMBER

whisky, which the men and boys of the town promptly salvaged and drank.

HOMER, 13 *m.* (452 pop.), a small farming and trading post, lies in a valley (R), with a T-shaped main street.

1. Right from Homer on a country road to the SITE OF AN OMAHA INDIAN VILLAGE, 05 *m.*, known as the Large Village. Built in the eighteenth century, on the side of a rather steep hill now devoted to farming, the village had been burned before the Lewis and Clark expedition reached the site in 1804. In their journals, however, the village is described as having had 300 huts, abandoned after smallpox had destroyed 400 men and many women and children. Numerous graves are on the site.

2. Left from Homer on a graded dirt road that runs into heavily timbered country to LAND'S END, 6 *m.*, an abrupt descent of 500 feet from the top of the bluff to the river below. At this point the Indians prayed to their Great Spirit for a bountiful harvest, and here they held a sacrificial dance. After feasting all day, six of the strongest and bravest men began an endurance dance at sundown. To the beating of the tom-toms, they danced without food or drink until one of them fell from exhaustion and tumbled over the embankment into the Missouri.

South of Homer the country becomes hilly, and the highway runs along the western boundary of the proposed LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL PARK AND BIRD SANCTUARY (L), a heavily wooded region extending 25 miles along the Missouri bluffs and covering about 30,000 acres.

Along the river are steep bluffs, extended views, and wooded hills. Westward the country is rough and primitive, marked by small lakes, creeks, swamps, and thick undergrowth, leveling off eventually into rich farming lands. The proposed park would include a stretch of this broken country, which is part of the Omaha and Winnebago Indian Reservations (*see below*); a strip on the Iowa side of the Missouri; and a part of Dakota County, Nebr., which includes a camp site of Lewis and Clark. The Indians favor the proposal, and it is hoped that the region will eventually be restocked with game animals and other wild life.

WINNEBAGO, 19.9 m. (653 pop.), is a small Indian town. Lined along its graveled business street, which lies on a slant between two high hills, are the usual business establishments and churches. The old, weather-beaten, one-story buildings are white frame for the most part, although some are red and still others are gray and yellow stucco.

Winnebago (Ind., *the disfavored ones*) lies within the Winnebago Indian Reservation (*see below*), but the town proper is not included in the 32,250 acres that make up the reservation. On a tree-covered hill in the northwestern part of Winnebago, 0.2 miles right from the highway, is the white-frame ROMAN CATHOLIC MISSION AND CHURCH, its white crosses jutting high among the trees. A parochial school was established here in 1910 by Mother Catherine Drexel of Philadelphia. About 50 Indian children board here during the school term.

Nearby and farther downhill is the public WINNEBAGO HIGH SCHOOL, built of red-and-blue brick, and attended by both Indian and white children.

On another and higher hill, two blocks left from the main street, are the six yellow frame buildings of the New York DUTCH REFORMED MISSION, which has conducted a school for Indian children since the early 1900's.

At the extreme southern end of Winnebago is (L) the GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL (*visiting hours 10-12 a m., Mon., Wed., and Fri.*), constructed in 1934-35 for the care of Indian patients exclusively.

At Winnebago US 77 branches (R) from US 73E; this route continues south on US 73E.

At 21 m. is the WINNEBAGO INDIAN AGENCY. (*Visitors must obtain permission to visit reservation at office of agent in administration building. Federal law strictly forbids transportation of intoxicants into a reservation. Indian police have power to arrest trespassers.*) On either side of the highway are white frame buildings housing the commissary, laundry, and employees of the agency. All business pertaining to the Winnebago and Omaha reservations is transacted at the red-brick administration building (L).

The Government employs a farmer to instruct the Indians in agriculture; a model farm is conducted by the agency at Winnebago. Arable lands are held by individual Indians under trust patents, and are subject to both State and local taxes.

Originally from Wisconsin, the Winnebago, who are of Siouan stock, were driven into this region after the Sioux uprising of 1862. They aban-

doned their Crow Creek reservation near Pierre, S. Dak., in 1863-64, and reached the Omaha Reservation in the winter of 1864. The Omaha, their blood relatives, took pity on them, and in 1865 sold 97,000 acres to the Government as a permanent home for the Winnebago (*see INDIANS*).

A highly informative history of the wandering Winnebago—the record of their forced migration from their ancestral lands in the Great Lakes region during three centuries of broken alliances and treaties—has been set down by one of their number, Oliver La Mere. Another eminent member of the tribe is Henry Roe Cloud, a full-blooded Winnebago, now superintendent of the Haskell Institute at Lawrence, Kans.

The Winnebago are alert, educated, sociable. Although fond of such adornments as bright ribbons, they dress and speak much like their white neighbors. A movement is under way to preserve and revive their native arts. Their beadwork and weaving designs show traces of their remote lake-country origin. In marked contrast to the geometrical forms of other Siouan tribes, their patterns reflect forest forms—leaves and flowers in delicate coloring. In September 1935 an Indian International Fair and Art Exhibit was held at the Winnebago Agency. Specimens of contemporary handiwork were displayed and ceremonies in tribal costumes performed. Managed by representatives of the Santee and Ponca tribes as well as of the reservation Indians, the fair was so successful that it will doubtless become a regular function of the associated tribes.

1. Left from the Indian agency on the graveled street, over a hairpin curve at 2.7 m., to BIG BEAR HOLLOW, 3 m., a depression resembling the crater of an extinct volcano. Basin-shaped, surrounded by steep hills, sheer cliffs, deep-cut crevices, and ledges, it is similar to Devil's Nest (*see Tour 13*), but is more heavily wooded. The hollow is about 5 miles in diameter and 400 to 500 feet deep. The bottom is like a primeval forest, vines and underbrush interlace, making the hollow impassable except for an occasional trail or solitary footpath winding under arching boughs.

The hollow was named for a legendary creature, half man, half black bear, that is said to have lived here. From time to time he descended upon the neighboring Indian village and carried off comely girls. The lover of one of the abducted girls trained two bear cubs as fighters, and in the end they drove the man-bear from his den. When the monster tried to return, he was killed by the Indian brave.

2. Right from the Indian agency on a dirt road to HOWARD PARK, 0.7 m., named for former U. S. Representative Edgar Howard. This 60-acre, oak-shaded park is the scene of the annual Winnebago Indian Pow-Wow (4 to 5 days first part of Aug.; adm. 50¢). Years ago the pow-wow had a religious significance, but today it is a combination carnival, family reunion, old settlers' picnic and county fair. All the Winnebago, as well as Indians of other tribes, move to the tented pow-wow grounds, dressed in their traditional costumes. All the bucks wear elaborate feather headdresses, some reaching to their heels. A black dress with hundreds of elk teeth attached like spangles, a jacket of solid beadwork of arresting design, a fringed buckskin dress with bead ornaments, are typical women's costumes.

Beadwork, weaving, moccasins, and farm products are displayed. Rodeos, exhibitions, speeches, and dances are held. The dances are not merely forms of amusement. The Indians do their war dance and rain dance. The entire assemblage participates in a few of the dances.

South of the Indian agency US 73E passes through the center of the WINNEBAGO INDIAN RESERVATION, a strip of land about 7 miles wide and 24 miles long, containing 97,497 acres, on which live 1,187

Winnebago Indians. This number includes some who had gone to Wisconsin previous to the 1934 census.

The reservation today differs little from other farming districts in the State, except that a tepee often stands near Indian farmhouses. Indians do not receive money directly as wards of the Government. Many are poor; some have recently been given work by Government relief projects (*see below*).

US 73E runs diagonally across a tract of bluffs and through hilly, wooded country. The many old trails that wind through the reservation are difficult to traverse in wet weather.

MACY, 30 m. (203 pop.), is an Indian trading post whose old store buildings face deep-rutted streets. Formerly known as the Omaha Agency, its present name was formed by taking the second syllable of Omaha and the last syllable of Agency. The change was made to avoid confusion with the city of Omaha.

THE OMAHA INDIAN RESERVATION includes only the southern and central parts of the original tract, a part of which the Omaha sold to the Government in 1865 as a home for the wandering Winnebago (*see above*). The irregular tract, measuring 12 miles north and south, and 30 miles from east to west, contains 205,335 acres, on which live 1,642 Indians, according to the 1934 census. The population has remained fairly constant.

Originally the Omaha migrated from the Ohio River to the Mississippi River; then north to Minnesota, and southwest to the Missouri River and the Black Hills. After further wanderings they settled in northeastern Nebraska, near the Bow, the Logan, the Elkhorn and the Papillion, where they lived for 200 years. In 1854 they were moved to the present reservation.

Ritual dances are performed by as many as 1,500 Indians at the annual Omaha Indian Pow-Wow (*held at Macy in the latter part of August; adm. 50¢*). During recent years a rodeo and other events have been added. During the pow-wow the Indians exchange gifts of horses, blankets, and bead-work; sometimes a widow will give away her possessions. White visitors and the guests from other tribes may receive gifts, but may not give any. If an Omaha receives a little buckskin bag filled with dried grasses, he will, according to custom, give in return his most prized possession, perhaps his best horse, which signifies: "Brother, no matter what happens to you, I will stand by you forever."

Left from the junction of the main street of Macy and US 73E, on a dirt road, to the SITE OF THE PRESBYTERIAN MISSION, 3.5 m., on MISSION POINT. Nothing remains of the mission but an old cemetery, deeded by the tribe to the Nebraska State Historical Society. The trail past the site is usually good, but it has several sharp turns bordered by deep ravines.

The mission was first established in Bellevue in 1847. In 1853 the Rev. William Hamilton took charge; four years later he removed the mission to its present site at the south end of the sandstone bluff, 500 to 600 feet high, formerly used by the Indians as a signal station and by the Spanish and French voyagers as a stopping place. When the Government took over the education of the Indians, the mission was abandoned. The building was torn down during the World War and its timber used for gun stocks and interior finish for houses.

There is a legend associated with Mission Point that concerns the tragic love of an Indian brave (*Amos Two Trees*) and an Indian girl (*Morning Star*), whose lives became involved with that of a white trader. While the brave was away on a hunt, the trader persuaded the girl to leave her betrothed and live with him. Later, when the Indian returned, the trader abandoned the girl. Feeling that she had betrayed her people, the girl drowned herself in the river. The Indian forced the trader to drown himself too, and for 50 years thereafter, so the legend says, the Indian warred continually against the white man.

1. Right 1 m. from Mission Point on a country road to the old HOMESITE OF JOSEPH LA FLESCHÉ. The old buildings are gone, including the little store kept by La Flesché (*Iron Eye*), adopted son of Big Elk, chief of the Omaha (*see INDIANS*). But something of the primitive beauty of this region remains. The bluffs lining the river are heavily wooded, and drop abruptly to the river. Across the river are the flat lands of Iowa. La Flesché, son of a Frenchman and a Ponca woman, succeeded Big Elk as chief of the Omaha because of his energy, integrity, and good judgment. At one time he organized a police force to prevent drinking among the Omaha. La Flesché had seven children. One was Francis La Flesché, whose work included research in tribal psychology, religious and intellectual concepts, language origins, and intertribal relations, as well as a monumental history of the Omaha. He was later associated with the Bureau of American Ethnology in Washington. Other children of La Flesché were Susette "Bright Eyes," later Mrs. T. H. Tibbles of Lincoln, known for her work in behalf of her people; Dr. Susan Picotte of Bancroft; and Carey La Flesché, once chief clerk of the Omaha agency.

2. Left 4 m. from Mission Point to HOLY FIREPLACE POINT and COUNCIL POINT, park and picnic spots on bluffs overlooking the Missouri River, laid out by the Indian Emergency Conservation Works. Trails lead (R) from the main country road to the tops of the hills overlooking the river.

On the side of Holy Fireplace Point is ROBBER'S CAVE (*accessible on foot*), now only a small recess in the bluff but once the hide-out of river bandits. When an unsuspecting trapper was seen floating his season's catch down the river, the bandits would assail his barge, kill him, and take his furs. At one time the opening of the cave formed a right-angle turn and it was necessary to crawl on hands and knees to enter. Now erosion and the destructive work of vandals have changed it. The James brothers are said to have evaded capture on one occasion by hiding in this cave after attempting to rob a bank in Northfield, Minn.

At 32.5 m. on US 73E is the junction with a dirt road.

Left 1.5 m. on this road to a junction with another dirt road; L. here to BLACKBIRD HILL, 1.7 m., an Indian landmark and observation point. It received its name in 1800 when it became the burial place of the cruel and tyrannical Blackbird, chief of the Omaha. After his death, according to legend, Blackbird was strapped to his favorite horse, which was led to the top of the hill. Dirt was piled around them, making a mound 16 feet high. On top of the mound was placed a pole bearing the scalps that Blackbird had taken. Four years later (August 11, 1804) the hill was visited by the Lewis and Clark expedition.

When George Catlin, painter and traveler, climbed Blackbird Hill in 1832, he dug into a gopher hole and found a skull supposed to be that of Blackbird. The skull is now in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington. "The surface of the country," wrote Catlin, "is gracefully and slightly undulating like the swells of the ocean after a heavy storm, and everywhere covered with a beautiful green turf, and with occasional patches and clusters of trees."

Blackbird Hill breaks through the bluffs along the Missouri River, and rises by a succession of rounded elevations to a height of several hundred feet, affording a fine view of the countryside. To the east is the river with its wooded islands and broad valley. To the north and south, parallel with the river, is Blackbird Range, a group of lesser hills growing smaller in the distance. To the west is an expanse of rolling prairies, broken by fields, dotted with trees. Several drawings have been scratched in the yellow sandstone cliffs at the base of the hill. One is of a British flag, believed to have been carved here during the War of 1812. Others picture

writing scripts in Pawnee and Arikari characters antedate the Omaha occupancy. One of these has been translated as "the Sun and the Evening Star, the Hunter Elk and Thunder Bird, the Buffalo Man and Others."

Every October, when the moon is full, a piercing scream is heard from the top of Blackbird Hill, so it is said. It is the anguished cry of a white man who once leaped from the cliff into the river. He had married the sweetheart of his best friend and schoolmate after the latter had been shipwrecked and given up for lost. But the friend returned after years of wandering to claim the girl. The jealous husband cut his wife's throat and jumped from the bluff, carrying her body. Where her blood was spilled the grass no longer grew, forming a trail that is still pointed out as the path the demented man took to the bluff's edge.

At 36.2 *m.* on US 73E is the junction with a dirt road.

Right 0.3 *m.* on this road over a steep hill to an INDIAN CHURCH, a little gray stucco building on the site of a model farm established years ago by the Mormon Church to assist the Indians. The farm experiment proved unsuccessful, largely from lack of funds. The pastor of the church lives on the farm.

At 39.2 *m.* is (L) the western boundary of the proposed Lewis and Clark National Park (*see above*), marked by a sign. A procession of heavily timbered bluffs (L) conceals the Missouri River, 2 miles or more from the highway. The prairie (R) slopes away toward the flat terrain of east-central Nebraska.

DECATUR, 40.1 *m.* (1,033 alt., 683 pop.), a river town founded in 1855 at what was then a strategic position on the Missouri, has been moved frequently to follow the changing course of the river. It was named for Stephen Decatur, member of the land company that founded it.

At 44.6 *m.* is GOLDEN SPRINGS (R), now a mere trickle of water from a pipe in the shade of a clump of trees. Ridges of the old stagecoach road nearby tell the story of the days when the stagecoaches bumped their way over the Missouri bluffs of Burt County and stopped here for water. On the walls of the grotto are names carved 150 years before the coming of the pioneers—by Spanish and French explorers, say the Indians.

When F. E. Lange, a German mechanic and furniture maker, crossed the Missouri River in 1853 to seek a suitable habitation, he found Golden Springs and staked out a squatter's claim. Under the sandstone cliffs southeast of the springs he set up four logs as a beginning of his cabin, but he did not return to settle here until 1855. The farm and the springs still belong to his sons.

TEKAMAH, 56.5 *m.* (1,054 alt., 1,804 pop.), though settled by F. E. Lange (*see above*), was founded by Col. Benjamin R. Folsom and eight others from Utica, N. Y., on October 7, 1854, and was incorporated the following March. The name probably comes from an Indian word meaning *big cottonwood*. The town site was an Indian camping ground or village, and the surrounding hills are said to have been used for burial grounds (*see below*).

Tekamah, seat of Burt County, is a modern country town with paved streets and attractive stores. On a lawn near the highway (L) is a monument honoring the county's pioneers. In the southwestern part of Tekamah is RESERVOIR HILL, about 200 feet above the main section of the town.



THRESHING

From the summit of this sandstone hill, one of the highest points between Omaha and Sioux City, there is a broad view of the Missouri Valley

Left from Tekamah, 2 m. on a dirt road to the SITE OF AN OMAHA INDIAN VILLAGE, which was attacked by Yankton and Santee Indians December 12, 1846. Towagaxe, "village maker," was the only Omaha chief present at the time, the other chiefs being off with their men on a buffalo hunt. Eighty were killed. The Indian burial ground was just west of Tekamah.

Left from the Omaha Indian village site to TEKAMAH FLATS, a narrow strip extending along the river from South Sioux City to Blair, reaching its greatest width (about 10 miles) at Tekamah. Being on the Missouri River Flyway, the flats offer fine duck-shooting in season. The blue goose is also found here.

On a knoll at 63.6 m. is HERMAN (1,033 alt., 421 pop.), a small farming town in a typical Missouri River countryside. Named for Samuel Herman, conductor on the old Omaha & Northwestern R.R., which platted the town in 1871, this Danish and German settlement is a town of workers, retired farmers, and small shopkeepers. On the evening of June 13, 1899, Herman was struck by a tornado which destroyed every building except the schoolhouse and the M. E. Church, at opposite ends of the village.

BLAIR, 743 m. (1,232 alt., 2,791 pop.) (*see Tour 8*), is at the junction with US 30, which crosses the Missouri River on a toll bridge (*see Tour 8*).

DE SOTO, 80.3 *m.* (17 pop.), today a ghost of the old steamboat town that flourished years ago on the Omaha-Decatur road, was the Washington County seat from 1858 to 1866. In its day it had two newspapers and a hat factory, the first in Nebraska, making felt from the hair of rabbit, coon, muskrat, beaver, otter, and wolf. Today the Missouri River, having left its former channel, is a mile or more to the east. The old town that served freighters and citizens has almost disappeared; only a grain elevator remains.

FORT CALHOUN, 83.4 *m.* (1,000 alt., 309 pop.), on a bluff rising abruptly from the Missouri River, was incorporated in 1858 and named for John C. Calhoun (1782-1850), American statesman and Secretary of War under President Monroe.

Fort Calhoun is a trading center for farms producing corn, wheat, and livestock. Its proximity to Omaha has made it almost a suburb of that city, yet it retains its compactness and identity. A Harvest Fair is held each September, and the Washington County Pioneers' Picnic is held the third Friday in August at the city park.

In 1904, on the hundredth anniversary of the Lewis and Clark council with the Indians (*see below*), a stone monument was set up in the VILLAGE PARK, which also contains an 1892 cannon from the Watervliet Arsenal, and a bird bath honoring the late W. H. Woods, former resident and historian.

Left on Court St. to the SITE OF FORT ATKINSON, 0.5 *m.*, on the farm of A. W. Beale, marked by a monument erected in 1927.

The Lewis and Clark expedition camped on this promontory now called Council Bluff and conferred with the Indians on August 3, 1804. This was the first conference between representatives of the Federal Government and the Nebraska Indians.

Although there are no ruins on the site and the land is under cultivation, relics are dug up occasionally. In 1919 a celebration was held here to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the establishment of the fort. A movement is under way to restore Fort Atkinson and make it a State park.

Early in the nineteenth century the Hudson's Bay Company, bidding for the Northwest fur trade, furnished thousands of Indians in the territory with guns. An act of Congress (April 29, 1816) prohibited non-citizens from traveling without passports into territory held by Indians within the United States. Military posts were established to enforce this act. One was Camp Missouri, built just above Council Bluff in September 1819, the first military post in Nebraska. In 1819 barracks were erected for 1,000 soldiers under the command of Gen. Henry Atkinson. In 1820 the camp was moved more than a mile to the secure and commanding top of Council Bluff and the name changed to Fort Atkinson, in honor of the commander. Fort Atkinson thus became not only the first fort but the first town in Nebraska. Teamsters, laborers, traders, hunters, trappers, and Indians made up its population of more than a thousand inhabitants. It had a brickyard, limekiln, sawmill, gristmill, rock quarries along the river, a school, a library of 500 books brought from the East, and a bakery.

When the troops were moved to Cantonment Leavenworth (now Fort Leavenworth) in 1827, the town was virtually destroyed. The soldiers took everything usable except the buildings, which the Indians burned. The ruins were found in 1854-1855 by early settlers of Fort Calhoun, who used the brick and stone to build houses.

South of Fort Calhoun, on a knoll paralleling the highway, is a ROW OF LOCUST TREES (R), planted in 1824 by early settlers from Indiana.

and by soldiers who had brought the seedlings from Kentucky. One hundred years later one of these locusts was transplanted to the Fort Calhoun park during the centennial celebration.

At 90.5 *m.* is the junction with the Ponca Rd.

Left 19 *m.* on this oil mat road to a junction; L up a steep hill to a point at 4 *m.*, from which the probable SITE OF FORT LISA is to be seen (R) along the river

In 1807 Manuel Lisa, born in New Orleans of Spanish parents, moved up the Missouri and the Yellowstone as far as the Big Horn, where he established a trading post. Thereafter he made annual trips up the watercourse from St. Louis. In 1812 he founded Fort Lisa and began trading in furs, land, cattle, and horses. He also acted as a subagent to the Indians and as arbiter between the tribes and the Federal Government.

Fort Lisa became the principal trading post of the plains region, and Lisa himself was highly influential throughout this area. Up to his death in 1820 his wife, who spent the winter of 1819 at Fort Lisa, was probably the first white woman to settle in Nebraska Territory.

Also in this vicinity was a post established about 1825 by J. B. Cabanne for the American Fur Company 9 or 10 miles above Omaha. Prince Maximilian of Germany, who visited Nebraska in 1833, described the post. "We saw a crowd of Otoe and Omaha Indians. A small brook with steep banks flows down to the river from a pleasant little wide valley in which are the corn plantations." Before 1840 the post was moved to Bellevue and placed under the management of Peter A. Sarpy.

At 4.8 *m.* on this dirt road running between the bluff and the Missouri River, to the SITE OF LONG'S CAMP. Sent by the Federal Government to explore the Platte River and the mountain region beyond, Maj. S. H. Long and his party, which included geologists, zoologists, and an artist, here spent the winter of 1819-1820 (*see HISTORY*). The expedition brought the first steamboat, the *Western Engineer*, to these waters. The amazement of the Indians along the Missouri River is all the more understandable in view of the fact that the bow was built to resemble a serpent or dragon, the mouth of which emitted smoke, fire and steam while the boat was in motion. The Indians explained the phenomenon, saying, "White man, bad man, keep Great Spirit chained, built fire under him to make him paddle their boat."

OMAHA, 99.2 *m.* (1,040 alt., 214,006 pop.) (*see OMAHA*).

Points of Interest: Creighton University, Joslyn Memorial, Union Stockyards, Packing Plants, Mormon Cemetery, Carter Lake, and others.

Section b. OMAHA to KANSAS LINE, 105.8 m. US 73-75, US 73

South of Douglas St. in Omaha, 0 *m.*, there are two routes for US 73—24th St. and 13th St.

At 5.4 *m.* are the south city limits of Omaha and the junction with State 31, also called Bellevue Blvd. (*see Tour 1A*).

At 6 *m.* is the north junction of US 73 and US 75; the two routes are united between this point and 70.9 *m.*

At 10.5 *m.* is FORT CROOK (1,050 alt., 75 pop.), an unincorporated settlement and Army post, named for Gen. George Crook (1828-1890), who fought in the Civil War and Indian wars. During the summer R.O.T.C. and C.M.T.C. encampments are held here. The fort proper consists of officers' homes, band quarters, administrative buildings, and barracks, housing nine companies. The red-brick buildings surround a large parade ground.

Rifle ranges are maintained, and recreational facilities include an 18-

hole golf course, tennis courts, motion-picture theater, swimming pool, baseball field, and running track. Sunday band concerts attract many visitors.

Right from Fort Crook on State 31 to the SITE OF THE OMAHA INDIAN VILLAGE, 5 m., known as "Hill Rising in the Center of a Plain" Built in 1847 on Papillion Creek, the village was the home of the Omaha Indians until they sold their lands to the Government and moved 2 years later to the Blackbird Hills reservation

PAPILLION, 8 m. (718 pop.), was named by the French traders for the many butterflies found here A mill in this vicinity owned by Peter Sarpy, a pioneer for whom the county was named, is in good state of preservation.

At 14.7 m. on US 73-75 at the north end of the Platte River bridge, is a junction with a dirt road.

Right on this road to the SITE OF THE MOSES MERRILL MISSION, 4 m., built in the winter of 1834-1835 by the Federal Government for Moses Merrill, the first Protestant (Baptist) missionary to Nebraska Indians The old stone chimney and fireplace still remain on what is known as the John Holonbek farm, west of La Platte

Moses Merrill came to Bellevue in 1833 with his wife (Eliza Wilcox) and Miss Cynthia Brown to conduct missionary work among the Otoe Indians, which was continued until Merrill died in 1840.

Father Pierre Jean de Smet, recording a visit to the Otoe community during this period, described a meal he was served in the cabin of the first chief The chief's "queen" seated him on a cushion "shining with grease" and served a stew and a pie which he dared not refuse for fear of giving offense "Well, well," he said to himself, "you are not in Belgium; let us begin our apprenticeship in earnest, and so long as we are in the woods, howl heartily with the wolves." As he ate, a dozen dogs sat on their hams with their eyes fastened on his dish, ready to be of assistance in case of need But the stew, he relates, was really excellent, buffalo tongue with a good gravy of bear fat, mixed with flour from the wild sweet potato

At 16.8 m. is the SITE OF OREAPOLIS, a Territorial community that attracted pioneers through the medium of a 16-page pamphlet. Its slogan was, "The early settlers make the money."

The site is now included in the U. S. MILITARY RESERVATION AND RIFLE RANGE. Part of this area of 800 acres has been given to the PLATTSMOUTH GAME REFUGE, administered by the State in cooperation with the National Park Service. Food and covering for wild life are being planted, and bird shelters, truck trails, dikes and ponds are being constructed.

PLATTSMOUTH, 19.2 m. (968 alt., 3,793 pop.), seat of Cass County, was named because of its position at the mouth of Platte River. The bluffs along the Missouri on the east are in striking contrast with the sandy banks of the Platte north of town. Plattsmouth history extends back to pioneer Nebraska. The pioneer trader, Manuel Lisa, passed here May 10, 1811. Many old structures are interspersed among its modern buildings The street curbs in Plattsmouth are higher than average to guard against spring rains and overflow water from the nearby rivers and hills.

The Plattsmouth Town Company was formed in November 1854, and the town was incorporated on March 15, 1855. The majority of the settlers depended on river traffic for a livelihood; this traffic was one of the causes of the boom period in the 1860's. The steady flow of migration filled the town with caravans, and the merchants of Plattsmouth grew

prosperous. The passing of the mouth of the Platte was an occasion for ceremonious horseplay on the part of the sturdy boatmen. All who had not come that way before had their choice between being shaved with a rusty piece of hoop for a razor and a bucket of slush for lather, or treating their more experienced fellows. Discovering the fertility of the Knox silt loam of Cass County, emigrants began to settle here instead of farther west. In 1869 ground was broken for the railroad, and the Burlington Route built shops in Plattsmouth. The coming of railroads meant the decline of river traffic.

The settlement at Plattsmouth was disturbed by "claim jumpers" in the years 1853-1856. This gave rise to Claim Club courts, groups banded together to protect land claims. "Over the river," which came to be the common phrase expressing Claim Club justice, referred to the fact that those found guilty of robbing squatters of their claims by intimidation or fraud were forced to cross the river from Plattsmouth into Iowa. It is certain that some of them never reached the other side.

The bluffs along the Missouri just south of town yield large quantities of stone, and their clay soil is well suited for pottery products. Large deposits of sand on the banks of the Platte River are exploited commercially.

Plattsmouth has a factory that builds and repairs refrigerator cars, a vegetable packing plant, and a roller mill, one of the few left in the county dating back to an early day. The NEBRASKA MASONIC HOME, 13th and Washington Ave., is maintained for aged Masons and their wives.

King Korn Karnival, annual fall festival (*held for 4 days, usually after the middle of Sept.*), consists mainly of a display of agricultural products. Parades of farmers, merchants, and school children with their pets; band concerts, games, contests, and exhibits; and a double wedding and the coronation of a king and queen enhance the carnival spirit.

At Plattsmouth is the junction with a graveled road.

Right on this road to LOUISVILLE, 14 m. (1,041 alt, 969 pop.), known for its fishing. The town was settled in 1870. A POTTERY PLANT (*visitors welcome*), with a large daily output, occupies a half acre one block off the main street. The LIME AND CEMENT COMPANY PLANT employs 150 men in making cement from limestone calcium and rock shale.

Adjacent to Louisville on the north are the PLATTE VIEW RECREATION GROUNDS (*adm. free*), having a State-sponsored lake, swimming pool, beach, and stone fire-places.

SOUTH BEND, 21 m (1,036 alt, 99 pop.), is one of the early towns along the Platte River that has yielded to better-placed rivals. The chief commercial interest is its sand pits south of town. As early as 1857 this vicinity was settled; the first settler lived a half mile south of the present town. Near here was Mullin's Ranch, known as a hide-out of horse thieves.

At 26.4 m. on US 73-75 is the junction with State 1, a graveled road.

Right on State 1 to MURRAY, 1 m (300 pop.), where have been found fragments of Indian pottery of the Woodland type developed by people of the Algonkian linguistic stock. Just when these people came into this area is not known. As the pottery is found 22 feet under the surface, it is possibly very old.

First called Fairview, the town was renamed because there was another Fairview in Nebraska. The present name honors the Rev. George L. Murray, pastor of the United Presbyterian Church.

At 4.5 *m* is the junction with a dirt road Right 2.5 *m* on this road to EIGHT MILE GROVE CEMETERY (L), an old, grass-banked plot where the pioneers of Eight Mile Grove are buried

At 4.5 *m* on the dirt road is the junction with another road, L. here 0.6 *m* to HANGMAN'S TREE, the story of which is told in Bess Streeter Aldrich's *A Lantern in Her Hand*. In 1854 three claim jumpers and horse thieves were caught, tried, found guilty, and hanged here. All were buried in the same grave near the tree, which stood in the backyard of the blacksmith shop of Eight Mile Grove. Today the tree stands in a grove in a field west of the road, and is difficult to distinguish from other trees.

South of Plattsmouth US 73-75 runs through a hilly, orchard country, little different from that of the northern part of the route.

At 33.2 *m.* on US 73-75 is the junction with US 34.

Right from US 73-75 on this paved road, paved for 10 miles, then graveled, to UNION, 0.5 *m* (316 pop.), a small town on the slope of a hill. The Union sympathies of the settlement during the Civil War gave the town its name.

At 1.8 *m.* is the junction with a dirt road, L. on this road 1 *m.* to the SITE OF FACTORYVILLE, once a promising town with a flour mill, stores, hotel, post office, and Methodist college—called Factoryville College. Killers, horse thieves, trappers, millers, storekeepers, and preachers made up the town's population. Factoryville had its heroes, of whom tall tales are still told. Abijah Munn was a huge man who worked wonders on the threshing crew. Just for relaxation he would seize a six-foot man by the scruff of the neck and the seat of the pants, and throw him to the top of a straw stack. George McWaters could ride at breakneck gallop, putting a bullet in every fence post on the way. Quinn Bohanan, the town's bad man, had a respect for learning which, the story goes, expressed itself when he killed a man because he did not like the number of d's the man wrote in the word "peddler." McWaters and Bohanan kept the town streets lively by staging fake gun fights.

When the railroad was built on the other side of Weeping Water Creek, however, the town gradually declined. Nothing remains today but depressions where the buildings stood.

At 4.1 *m* on US 34 is the junction with another dirt road. Right on this road 1 *m.* to NEHAWKA (298 pop.). When the Government granted a post office to the farmers along the north branch of the Weeping Water Creek, Isaac Pollard, a settler, visited the Post Office Department in Washington on a trip east to select a name for the new office. He wanted an Indian name for weeping water, but the only one he could find was too hard to pronounce. He chose Nehawka because it sounded well. Nehawka is thus a white man's approximation to "nigahoe" (Omaha and Otoe Indian, *water rustling*). This Indian word is similar to another meaning weeping water (*see below*). It was on the Weeping Water Creek near Nehawka that traces of prehistoric man in Nebraska were first discovered. Here the limestone terrace above the stream is gashed with trenches, and the hills a mile back are honeycombed with pits and tunnels and covered with the debris of ancient workings. In 1900 an excavation was made on the Isaac Pollard farm. After two years of work archeologists and geologists found what they believed to be traces of ancient flint quarries made many centuries ago.

At 5.6 *m.* on US 34 is the junction with a dirt road. Left on this road 2 *m.* to a junction; R. from the junction to FOUR FORGOTTEN GRAVES, 2.7 *m.* (R), marked by a monument that can be reached only on foot. The graves are so named because no living relatives of the occupants have been found. One grave is that of Alphonso Young (1864), a pioneer doctor, who, on his return from a case at Old Wyoming, a steamboat landing town near here, died from freezing or over-exertion in Big Slough, a swampy ravine. Another grave is believed to be that of his son James Le Roy, 28 years old, who died three years later. The others are those of George Dillon, who died in 1850, and Thomas McMillan, who died in 1862.

At 12.1 *m* on US 34 is the junction with State 50. Right 3.5 *m.* on State 50 to WEEPING WATER (1,079 alt., 1,029 pop.), incorporated on February 13, 1857, and named for Weeping Water Creek, on which the town is situated. According to leg-

end, a powerful Indian tribe once lived near the source of the stream. The chief's beautiful daughter was sought in marriage by the chief of a neighboring tribe, but she rejected him. One day when the girl was bathing in a lake near the village, the chief carried her off. Her father's warriors pursued the couple, in the fight that followed all were killed. Their women waited for three days, then started in search of the warriors, whom they found at last, dead upon the battlefield. They wept so bitterly and so long that their tears formed the stream, Weeping Water, which still flows near the village.

The legend is a white man's invention to account for the name, Weeping Water. The creek, like Nehawka, took its name from the Indian word "nigahoe," which was confused with a similar Indian word, "nihoage" (*water weeping*), but the error has persisted. The French called the creek *L'Eau qui Pleure* (*the water that weeps*).

At 35.3 m. is (L) the UNIVERSITY FRUIT FARM (*visitors welcome*), an experimental station of the Department of Horticulture, University of Nebraska College of Agriculture. The farm consists of 80 acres, largely planted with apple trees, also growing pears, plums, cherries, peaches, and grapes. On the grounds is a home orchard where the caretaker lives. There are field crops and native meadows; in the northwestern part of the plot is a walnut grove, and in the southeast a pasture.

The surrounding region is at its best in the spring in apple-blossom time. Orchardists set out signs to guide visitors to the largest and most beautiful orchards. Apple Blossom Day, as the annual festival is called, is held in southeastern Nebraska in April or May at the height of blossom time; the exact date is announced by radio. The tour through the apple country begins at Union and goes through Nebraska City, Shubert, Falls City, Peru, Nemaha, Auburn, and other towns along the way.

At 43.7 m. US 73-75 passes the INDIAN TREATY MONUMENT (L), which commemorates the Table Creek Treaty with the Pawnee (September 24, 1857). On its base are carved the names of many of the signers, including Comanche Chief, Gray Eagle Chief, and Hawk Chief.

By this treaty the Pawnee ceded to the Federal Government all of their lands north of the Platte, except for a tract along the Loup River, in return for \$40,000 a year for five years. A certain Samuel Allis, whom the Indians had robbed "when in distress and in a state of starvation," was the subject of the most interesting clause. Forgetting his injury, Allis had gone among the Pawnee and vaccinated more than two thousand of them when smallpox was ravaging the tribe. At the insistence of the Pawnee, who "felt that he should be paid for these things," Allis received \$1,000 both from the Government and the Indians.

At 44.2 m. (L) is ARBOR LODGE STATE PARK. (*Open April 1 to December 1; visiting hours 1:40-5 before June 15, 9-5 after June 15; adm. free; guide service; no camping.*)

Arbor Lodge is primarily a memorial to its creator, J. Sterling Morton, whose advocacy of Arbor Day made his name known beyond his own State and country. The park is a center of interest in tree-culture and a scenic spot of compelling sweep and variety.

In 1855, seven years before the Homestead Law, Morton came with his bride, Caroline Joy, to take up a home site by squatter's right on a strip of rich loess land near the new town of Nebraska City. He chose a point

overlooking the Missouri River and the Iowa bluffs beyond. Here he built a three-room, L-shaped house, with perhaps the first shingle roof between the river and the Rocky Mountains. The growth of native timber along the river did not extend to his home site, so he set out shade trees, evergreens, and an orchard. Later he added vines, shrubs, and flower beds. Morton early attained leadership in public life. While he was president of the State Board of Agriculture, Governor Furnas proclaimed a day of tree-planting (April 10, 1874)—the first Arbor Day. The legislature declared it a legal holiday in 1885, designating April 22, Morton's birthday, for its observance. Morton subsequently became Secretary of Agriculture in the second Cabinet of President Cleveland.

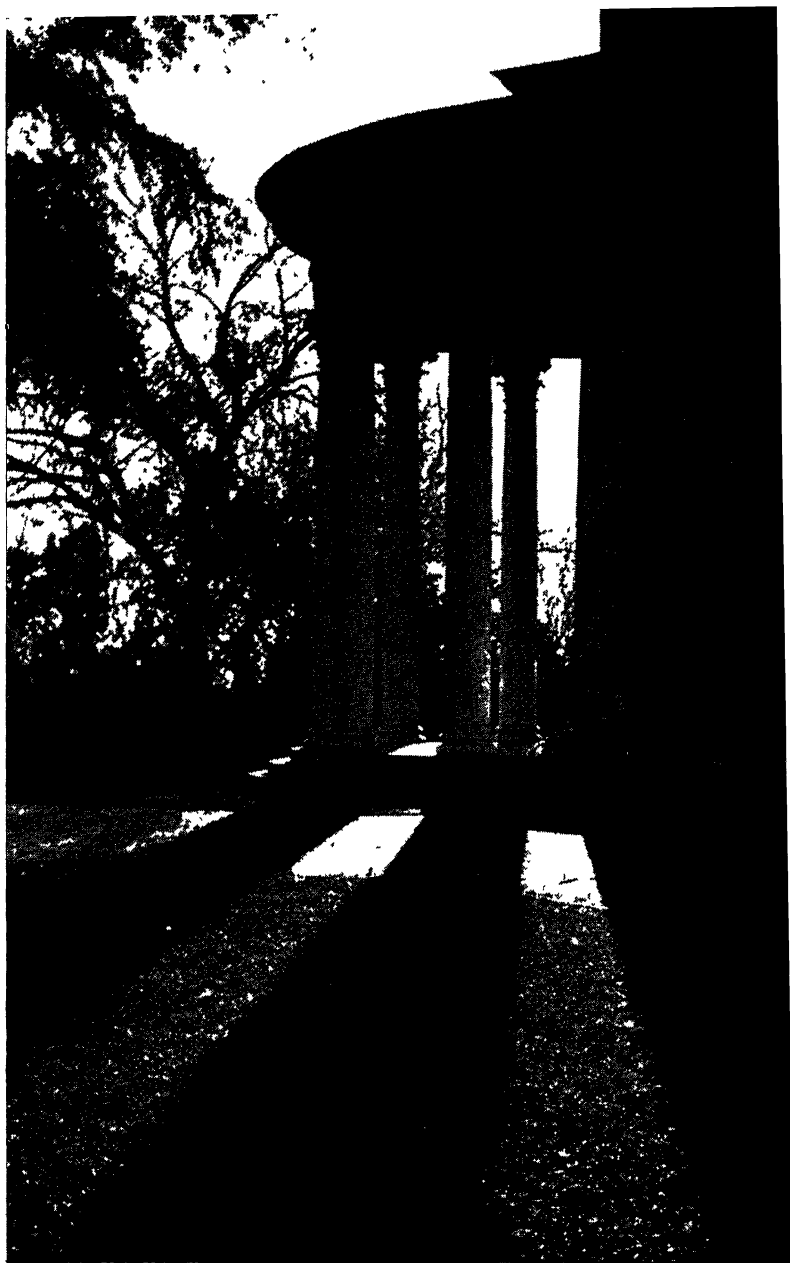
Through the generosity of his oldest son, Joy Morton, Morton's mansion and 65 acres of the original land—including 23 acres formerly given to Nebraska City for a park—were deeded as a memorial to the State of Nebraska in 1923. Since that time more than 30,000 visitors have registered annually.

The 52-room MANSION with its hand-hewn timbers and fine stairway was built over a period of 47 years, through three stages of change and enlargement, the last in 1902. The three-story T-shaped dwelling is finished in stucco. Each of the three wings terminates in a semicircular colonnaded porch.

The visitor, entering the newer central section from the east, passes through the reception hall, with its historical Indian painting over the stairway arch. In the Title Room, beyond, a guide service is available. Across the hall is the drawing room hung with fine Parisian tapestries. This opens upon a large sunroom with an unusual skylight of Chinese glass in a grapevine design. The older part of the house includes the library, or General Denver Room, so named for its one-time occupant, containing a large collection of Indian objects and notable for its hand-carved trim; the Document Room, formerly Morton's office, showing historical documents under glass and a number of objects associated with the visits of President Cleveland, Admiral Dewey, and other noted persons; and the dining room, with case displays of old silver and china. On the second floor are several bedrooms of interest, some of them preserving mementos of former occupants of note. The maple furniture and oil paintings of Caroline Joy Morton's room deserve special notice. The mansion was once furnished throughout; now only groups of historical interest remain.

In front of the mansion is a marker indicating a point on the old STEAM WAGON ROAD (*see TRANSPORTATION*). Behind the mansion is the STABLE AND CARRIAGE HOUSE, containing a collection of pioneer vehicles, among them a stagecoach used in 1860.

The grounds are divided into two parts, one elaborately landscaped, the other of timber and meadow maintained in its native state. There are more than 200 varieties of trees on the park grounds. More than 250 varieties of birds have been noted in the summer. The pine grove, north of the stables, was set out by Morton in 1892, with 10,000 trees at 4-foot inter-



ARBOR LODGE

vals. The matted needles and dense shade of this grove seem to belong rather to the northern woods than the Nebraska prairie.

The ARBORETUM, laid out in a meadow to the north and east of the mansion, contains 138 varieties of shrubs and trees, including many of Morton's planting, arranged to present a continuous pattern of color from early spring to late autumn. To the south is an Italian SUNKEN GARDEN, sloping from the central walk in four terraces separated by low hedges and walls; it is a notable example of careful landscaping.

South of the walk, in a fine old grove, is a LOG CABIN, typical of those used in pioneer days. In MONUMENT SQUARE, northwest of the lodge, is MORTON MEMORIAL, a massive bronze statue of the pioneer, set in a plaza 85 by 100 feet. A curved bench about the statue's pedestal bears inscriptions in bronze from Morton's writings.

NEBRASKA CITY, 45.4 m. (961 alt., 7,230 pop.), seat of Otoe County, is a river town that began as a trading post in the 1850's. It lay on the cut-off route of the Oregon Trail.

Nebraska City was founded by Stephen F. Nuckolls, for whom Nuckolls County was named, and incorporated on March 2, 1855.

While river freighting continued, steamboats landed at Nebraska City, and cargoes were loaded on overland freighters here. This brought business, emigrants, pioneers, new homes, and new money. Nebraska City grew into a bustling river town, wide open and free and easy, with stores, warehouses, saloons, dance houses and gambling dens. The resorts were filled with rollicking bullwhackers, mule skinnners and plain teamsters. Most of them carried a revolver or two, a well-filled cartridge belt and a bowie knife. Fights and killings were frequent. The town kept up its interest in transportation. The steam wagon (*see TRANSPORTATION*) was a disastrous experiment, but in 1871 the railroad came to Nebraska City, and opened new channels of growth.

Monuments and boulders marking the Oregon Trail and Fort Kearney have been placed on Central Ave. Fifty feet south of the southeast corner of 5th St. and Central Ave. is the SITE OF FORT KEARNEY BLOCKHOUSE, named for Brig. Gen. Stephen W. Kearny.

On S. 19 St., north of the cemetery (L), adjoining an old log cabin, is the SITE OF JOHN BROWN'S CAVE, which is being restored as a historic shrine. Here John Brown of Ossawatimie hid runaway slaves traveling the Underground Railway from Missouri and Kansas. Interest centers in a 10-by-12-foot cellar room under the house, a chamber which until recently had no windows or outside doors. A 30-foot tunnel cuts through from this secret room to Table Creek, a deep-banked stream which empties into the Missouri River close by. A score of fugitive slaves at a time were secreted in the dungeon room by sympathizers. If danger appeared, a tapping on the floor above would warn the fugitives to crawl through the hole to Table Creek and take refuge in its waters. From Nebraska City the Underground Railway crossed the Missouri into Iowa, where, at Tabor, the fugitives were outfitted for Canada.

Nebraska City had the first high school building in Nebraska, probably the first west of the Missouri River, built in 1864 at a cost of \$31,000. At

the NEBRASKA STATE SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND (*visitors welcome on weekdays*), 824 10th Ave., approximately 65 blind children are given boarding-school care until they finish high school or reach the age of 21. Special training is given in music and the domestic arts.

While Nebraska City is in the center of an apple-raising district, its industrial activities include garment manufacturing, cigar making, and fruit and vegetable canning.

Nebraska City has a country club, with a golf course (*open to public; greens fee 75¢*), and three municipally owned parks. One of the most attractive is RIVERVIEW PARK (*picnic facilities*), on 6th Ave., along the Missouri River. On 13th Ave. is HAYWARD PARK. DRIVING PARK, west end of Central Ave., has camping facilities.

Nebraska City is at the junction with State 2 (*see Tour 10*).

At 60.8 m. is the junction with State 67, a graveled road.

Left on State 67 to PERU, 7 m. (902 alt., 835 pop.), a picturesque college town on the bank of the Missouri, named for Peru, Ill., and incorporated January 13, 1860. NEBRASKA'S PIKE'S PEAK is west of Bluff Rd. The east and north slopes are steep, and the Indian path to its summit has become a narrow gully. Pike's Peak is the east end of a range of hills that borders the bottom lands. To the east the river makes a mighty bend around rich bottom land. The road passes the base of the hill.

Just northwest of Pike's Peak are four INDIAN HOUSE SITES. They appear only as sunken places in the ground, but among the remains is the outline of a mound with an entrance on the southeast. Charred posts have been found, the pillars upon which beams, brush, hides, and earth were laid. The floor was from 18 inches to 3 feet below ground level.

Pussywillows are numerous along the edge of the river, which is dotted with many wooded islands, often mistaken for the opposite shore.

On State 67 at the south end of town is the NEBRASKA STATE NORMAL SCHOOL, a group of tall buildings in a setting of trees. The first regular term of Peru Normal opened October 24, 1867. Immediately in front of the administration building is a GLACIAL BOULDER, a quartzite block, found southwest of the town and brought to the campus to commemorate the first commencement exercises, held in 1870.

Two blocks west of State 67, just south of Pike's Peak, is INDIAN HILL, a clay mound 100 feet high, once an Indian burial ground.

The founders of Peru chose Indian Hill for the site of the district school. A two-story brick structure has replaced the old one-room schoolhouse.

AUBURN, 65.8 m. (1,051 alt., 3,068 pop.), is at the junction with State 3 (*see Tour 11*).

At 70.9 m. is the south junction of US 73 and US 75.

HOWE, 72 m. (987 alt., 178 pop.), originally named Bedford, was renamed for Maj. Church Howe, who for several years was United States consul at Palermo, Italy, and Sheffield, England.

SHUBERT, 85.1 m. (1,075 alt., 387 pop.), was named for Henry W. Shubert, an early settler of Richardson County.

Left from Shubert on State 62 to BARADA (108 pop.), named for Antoine Barada (1807-1887), whose exploits as a strong man are as fabulous as the business deals of Febold Feboldson (*see FOLKLORE*).

Barada, son of Count Michael Barada, a Frenchman, and Laughing Water, a pretty Omaha Indian girl, once pinched a man with his toes until he begged for mercy. He was so strong he could snap a canoe paddle in two with his hands.

Barada spent his childhood in eastern Nebraska. He ran away from Indians when kidnapped, from Army officers when taken to military school. He moved to St. Louis, grew to manhood there, and worked in a flour mill. He then returned to his tribe and parents in central Thurston County, married a French woman in 1837, and joined the California gold rush in 1849. Six years later he returned to Nebraska, and in 1887 died at Barada. His wife is buried by his side. His descendants still live in the vicinity.

At 91.7 *m.* on US 73 is the junction with State 4.

Right on State 4 (concrete pavement) to VERDON, 21 *m.* (355 pop.); at 28 *m.* (R) is the VERDON LAKE RECREATION GROUNDS, with a small blue lake (*no camping facilities; fishing for sunfish, crappie, bullhead*).

FALLS CITY, 101.1 *m.* (900 alt., 5,787 pop.), seat of Richardson County, is near the falls of the Great Nemaha River.

Lying west of the Missouri River bluffs, in a region of high rolling hills, Falls City is made up of houses partly hidden by tall trees, and a modern business section around the courthouse square. The COURTHOUSE, a new red-brick, two-story building, contains a small MUSEUM with relics of the county's history.

When John A. Burbank came from the East in 1856, he heard such a convincing discourse about the prospects of Falls City from James L. Stumbo, who ran the mill at the Nemaha River falls, that he abandoned his plan of going to Kansas. In the winter of 1856-1857 he joined several others in forming the Falls City Town Association. They filed on a selected piece of land. The next winter (1857-1858) the first hotel was built, and on May 17, 1858, the town was incorporated.

The county seat was moved from Salem and established permanently at Falls City in 1860. By 1865 the Union House had been built; it was considered one of the best hotels in Nebraska at that time. The railroad was built in the early seventies. Later, in the spring of 1877, a fire destroyed seven large buildings and caused \$15,000 damage.

Falls City is primarily an agricultural town. The MISSOURI PACIFIC R.R. SHOPS are on the southeast edge of town. Falls City is a division point of the Missouri Pacific R.R., which maintains a general office building here and employs about 200 men.

The TIEHEN MEMORIAL GYMNASIUM, 19th and Fulton Sts., is a two-story yellow building with auditorium dedicated to Catherine and Agnes Tiehen and to J. J. Hoffman, pastor. A new ARMORY, built with PWA funds, is at 19th and Towle Sts.

The Chamber of Commerce annually sponsors a Horse and Colt Show, usually held in September. The Annual Show of the 4-H Club and the Richardson County Junior Fair also take place in September.

CITY PARK, 12th and Barada Sts., has a wading pool, playground for children, tennis court, and picnic grounds. AMERICAN LEGION PARK, Wilson and 21st Sts., has swings and picnic grounds. A large concrete SWIMMING POOL on West 25th St. is fed by spring water (*adm. to grounds free; swimming, 25¢*).

Falls City is at the junction with State 4.

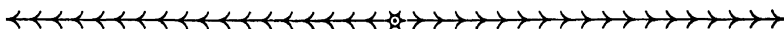
Left on State 4 to RULO, 10 *m.* (920 alt., 719 pop.), laid out in 1857 on land belonging to the wife of Charles Rouleau, better known as "Old Charley Rulo."

Rouleau was born in Detroit of French parents. He joined the Fremont expedition, came West, and married an Indian girl. Later he brought his wife to Rulo and took up land under the Half-breed Treaty (*see below*). He was hotheaded, kind, and generous, and is said to have given an entire block in the heart of a city to a stranger who sang a song that captured his fancy. When he died he had squandered a fortune.

Right from Rulo on a dirt road 1 *m.* to the SITE OF YANKTON, now on the Stephen Cunningham Farm. All traces of the village have disappeared except the cellars of buildings. Here 16 skeletal remains and prehistoric Indian pottery have been found.

The region west of Rulo, as far as the Nemaha River, was known as HALF-BREED TRACT, set aside for the use of half-breed Indians who were the children of French trappers and traders. Laws governing Indians could not be applied to the lawful son of a Frenchman, nor could the half-breed Indian assume the rights of his father. Consequently, the chiefs of the several tribes and the representatives of the Government met in 1830 at Prairie du Chien, Wis., and by a treaty set aside lands for the half-breeds in Richardson and Nemaha Counties.

At 105.8 *m.* US 73 crosses the Kansas Line, 14 miles north of Hiawatha, Kans. (*see KANS. TOUR 12A*).



Tour 1A

Omaha to Bellevue; 5.5 *m.* State 31.

Brick paving for 1 mile; remainder oiled

Tourist accommodations in Bellevue; none in Fontenelle Forest

Transportation provided by southbound Albright streetcar and Fort Crook bus

Branching southeast from US 73-75 (*see Tour 1*), at OMAHA, 0 *m.*, State 31 follows tree-shaded Bellevue Blvd. over rolling hills and through valleys.

At 1.1 *m.* is CAMP BREWSTER (L), Y.W.C.A. summer camp (*open*) named for Clara Brewster, who promoted the development of the camp and was its director for several years. A main lodge and 24 cottages on a 75-acre tract of land provide accommodations. From INSPIRATION POINT, just north of the main lodge, is a view of the river and the bluffs.

At 1.3 *m.* R. on a wide dirt lane leading past the caretaker's lodge to the entrance of FONTENELLE FOREST RESERVE (*adm. free*), a State park and a bird refuge of approximately 600 acres, including several acres of bluffs overlooking the Missouri.

Basswood, oak, elm, black walnut, green ash, hickory, black willow, sycamore, linden, black cherry, and the honey locust trees are a haven for more than 200 species of birds. Trails are bordered in season with wild flowers. Signal Ridge Trail leads to the highest point in the forest, and

Fern Trail winds along the valley. There are six main hollows: Childs, Mill, Handsome, Coffin, Mormon, and Spring.

MORMON HOLLOW, so called because a group of Mormons once camped here, is reached by a foot trail from the caretaker's lodge.

CHILDS' POINT, part of the Charles Childs Tract, which was the property of a pioneer, is a wooded tract of bluff land above the Missouri at a point where the river makes a wide loop.

The forest was named in honor of Logan Fontenelle (*see below*).

At 1.8 *m.* on State 31 is the junction with the Camp Gifford Rd.

Left 1.5 *m.* on this dirt road, and 400 yards on foot to LOOKOUT POINT, 1.7 *m.*, affording a good view.

At 2.2 *m.* on State 31 is the junction with Grove Rd., a graveled lane.

Left to WAKE ROBIN, 0.2 *m.* (*adm. free*), the retreat and studio of Dr. Robert F. Gilder, archeologist and artist. By the studio is a small building holding paintings of local scenes.

At 3.5 *m.* on State 31 is a marker indicating the junction with a dirt road.

Left on this tortuous and hilly route, overgrown with brush to the intersection with a foot trail; L. here across fields and through a thicket to the GRAVE OF LOGAN FONTENELLE, 2 *m.*, an Omaha chief. He was a half-breed, his father being French. Educated in St. Louis, he headed a delegation of his tribe sent to Washington in 1854. The following year, at the age of 31, he was killed by the Sioux in a battle on Beaver Creek and is presumably buried at this spot; some authorities believe, however, that his body was disinterred and reburied elsewhere.

BELLEVUE, 5.5 *m.* (985 alt., 1,017 pop.), the oldest existing town in Nebraska and for many years its largest community, was successively a fur-trading center, Indian mission, steamboat landing, and seat of Territorial government. Today it is a quiet river town, dwarfed by its neighbor and one-time rival, Omaha. The fur trader, Manuel Lisa, is said to have given the site its name, some time after 1807, because of the pleasing view of the river from this point.

A trading post may have been established at Bellevue as early as 1810, but the records of John Bradbury, a botanist who went west with the Astorians in 1811, and of Major Long in 1819 do not mention it. In 1823 Andrew Drips of the Missouri Fur Company was operating a log trading post at a point about a mile north of the present town. In the same year the agency of the Omaha, Oto, Missouri, and Pawnee Indians was removed to Bellevue from Fort Atkinson (now Fort Calhoun) by Maj. Joshua Pilcher. The first document noting a post at Bellevue dates from 1827, when Joseph Roubidou and Baptiste Roi were granted a license to trade here by Governor Clark at St. Louis.

Most of the early trappers and traders were of French descent and came from St. Louis, New Orleans, or Canada. Like the other traders, they intermarried freely with the Indians. Lucian Fontenelle, partner of Andrew Drips, married an Omaha woman; their son Logan Fontenelle, became a chief of the Omaha. In 1831, after Drips' departure west, Fontenelle sold the post to the Government as headquarters for the Indian agent, John Dougherty. About the same time the American Fur Company

established a new post here under Peter Sarpy. Descriptions of the flourishing trade center occur in the works of Catlin, who passed here in 1832, and of Prince Maximilian of Germany, who came a year later.

On November 19, 1833, arrived the first missionaries, Moses Merrill, his wife, and Miss Cynthia Brown, who were sent by the Baptist Missionary Union to convert the Oto (*see Tour 1*). In 1834 John Dunbar of the Presbyterian Church began missionary work among the Pawnee here, and in 1846 Edward McKinney began such work among the Omaha. A Presbyterian mission was completed in 1848, the teaching force consisting of McKinney, his family, and Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Reed, who arrived that fall. In 1853 William Hamilton took charge of the mission and remained until the Omaha Indians were removed to their present reservation in 1855.

In 1854 the *Nebraska Palladium*, a journal published at Bellevue, described the simple Sunday religious services at a wagon train encampment in the vicinity. A tin horn called the worshipers together in a corral where the devout sat under wagons to take advantage of the shade. A young theological student, an ox driver in the train, officiated as parson.

In 1856 a new Presbyterian church was built and the mission house was sold to James T. Allan, who converted it into a hotel, the Bellevue House. Here Francis Burt, first Territorial Governor, took his oath of office October 16, 1854. He was very ill at the time and lived only two days. It was Burt's intention to convoke the Territorial legislature here but his successor, Thomas B. Cuming, favored the younger community of Omaha. Bellevue was for a time the seat of Sarpy County, but later lost even that distinction to Papillion.

The site of the trading post cannot be fixed exactly, but it was probably at a point crossed by the railroad 1 mile north of the station. The post was a two-story, hewn-log building, 24 by 48 feet, overlooking the river and steamboat landing. At this wharf, one of the best on the Missouri, often a half dozen boats were tied up at one time. The logs of the post, owned by the Nebraska State Historical Society, are in Lincoln.

Bellevue Blvd. passes the BELLEVUE CEMETERY (L) at the northern end of the town. Noted pioneers buried here include Judge Fenner Ferguson, John Q. Goss, James Gow, and Henry Longsdorf. From the entrance to the cemetery is a beautiful view of the river.

The boulevard turns R. and enters the town on Franklin St. To the R. is ELK HILL, on the summit of which are the buildings of the former Bellevue College. CLARKE HALL, is a three-story red-brick structure completed in 1883, originally both a dormitory and school building. Organized in 1880, Bellevue College later became the University of Omaha, which was closed in 1917.

Southwest of the former school on Elk Hill is the CHINESE MISSION, where Roman Catholic missionaries to China are trained.

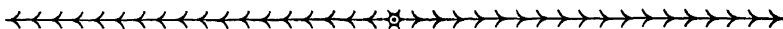
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, the oldest religious structure in Nebraska, built in 1856-1858, stands at 20th Ave. and Franklin St; its steeple was destroyed by a tornado in 1908. Here are kept church records, containing valuable accounts of early community life.

Opposite the church is WASHINGTON SQUARE, at the southwest corner of which is the ASTORIAN MONUMENT, of Wisconsin mahogany granite. At the northwest corner of the square is a MONUMENT TO THE FIRST MASONIC LODGE IN NEBRASKA, which was founded here in 1854. The monument was erected in 1932.

The MOUNTAIN RESIDENCE (*private*), second house north of 19th Ave. on the east side of Hancock St., a log structure covered with clapboards, is one of the oldest structures in town. The OSCAR KAYSER HOME (*private*), at 18th Ave. and Hancock St., contains a desk used in early local elections.

The SITE OF THE PRESBYTERIAN INDIAN MISSION is indicated by a marker between 19th and 20th Aves. on the east side of Warren St. The mission, built in 1846, was a two-story hewn-timber structure, 36 feet wide by 80 feet long, on a plateau 80 feet above the river.

The OLD COURTHOUSE, Mission Ave. and Main St., built about 1853, was the Sarpy County Courthouse up to 1875 when the county seat was moved to Papillion. Today it is used as a town hall and public library.



Tour 1B

Junction with US 73-75 to Rock Bluff; 6 m. Unnumbered road.

Graveled and dirt roadbed; passable except during heavy rains
No accommodations except gasoline pump and store

This route branches west from US 73-75 (*see Tour 1*), 0 m., 6 miles south of Plattsmouth, passing cornfields and pioneer houses. There are delightful views, especially in the spring and fall, from the bluffs along the river.

Crossing a branch of Rock Creek the road passes the white-brick WILLIAM LATTA HOUSE, 2 m., a chalky-looking square structure, one of the best preserved pioneer structures of the Rock Bluff area. It is reminiscent of the houses built by Quakers in eastern Pennsylvania.

The NAOMI INSTITUTE (L), 3 m., a red-brick building, used as a school since the 1870's, stands a little distance from the road.

At 3.5 m. is a tumble-down, boarded up, little SHANTY (R), where voting was done in the election of 1866. That year, when the question of Nebraska's immediate entrance into the Union was settled by a narrow vote in favor of statehood, the precinct of Rock Bluff became important because its vote decided whether Nebraska went Democratic or Republican. The composition of the State legislature, which was to choose the two United States Senators, was of great importance. Tension increased as it

was learned that the State House of Representatives would include 17 Democrats and 17 Republicans, while the State Senate was 6 to 5 for the Democrats, with the Cass County votes still to be counted.

In the Rock Bluff precinct 107 votes were cast for the Democrats and only 47 for the Republicans. If these votes were counted, the county would go to the Democrats, who would thus gain control of the legislature. But if they were not, the Republicans had enough votes in other precincts to carry Cass County. Consequently, the charge was made that election officials had improperly taken the ballot box with them when they went to dinner at a house a mile from the polling place. Whereupon the county clerk threw out all the votes, Cass County went Republican, and the legislature elected two Republican U. S. Senators, John M. Thayer and T. W. Tipton.

A short distance away from the shanty is the dilapidated red and gray ROCK BLUFF HOTEL (L), once an important center of the community life. The dwellings in this area are chiefly farmhouses. The route passes cornfields, district schools, and old groves of trees.

At 4 m. is the intersection of two dirt roads; here was the public square of the former town of ROCK BLUFF. A little store and gasoline pump, cornfields, a few warped houses are all that remain of a town that once aspired to greatness, competing with Plattsmouth to be made the county seat.

Rock Bluff, well named because of the rocky character of the bank of the Missouri here, was settled in 1854 by a German, Benedict Spires. Organized a village in 1856, it had 175 inhabitants, two trading houses, a mill, a blacksmith shop, a Methodist church, and a post office by 1877.

The road continues to the bank of the Missouri and the SITE OF THE ROCK BLUFF BOAT LANDING. A depression in the bluff (L) indicates the FORMER ROCK BLUFF COAL MINE.

Left from the boat landing and across Rock Creek to TURTLE MOUND (L), 5.4 m. The stone figure of a turtle, about 15 feet long and 10 feet wide, was found on this hill.

At 6 m. is the junction with the road to KING HILL (L), which is the highest of all the bluffs in this vicinity and affords a good view of the river. The road to the top is fairly good. Near King Hill is QUEEN HILL, only a little less commanding.

Right from the junction 1.1 m., to the intersection with two dirt roads; here is STERNS CREEK, named for Dr. Fred H. Sterns, who came from the Peabody Museum, Harvard University, in the summer of 1914, to excavate the WALKER GILMORE BURIED INDIAN VILLAGE here, so named because Walker Gilmore, of Murray, first discovered the site. Sterns Creek has cut through the alluvial fill from 10 to 20 feet, exposing at least 21 ancient houses. This region is rich in prehistoric remains and dome-shaped mounds that attract students of archeology (*see ARCHEOLOGY*).



Tour 2

(Sioux City, Iowa)—Winnebago—Fremont—Lincoln—Beatrice—(Marysville, Kans.); US 73-77, US 73W-77, US 77.

Missouri River at South Sioux City to Kansas Line, 200 m.

Between Dakota City and Fremont, the Chicago Burlington & Quincy R. R. parallels the route, between Fremont and Lincoln, the Chicago & North Western Ry.; between Lincoln and Kansas, the Union Pacific R. R.

Bus service, South Sioux City to Oakland; Winslow to Marysville.

Concrete pavement between Sioux City and Homer, between Hooper and Fremont, and from a point 5 miles north of Lincoln to Beatrice; balance graveled; some bituminous mat

Accommodations available at short intervals; hotels chiefly in cities.

The route passes through the eastern farming section of the State, which is characterized by corn and alfalfa fields, and rolling hills.

US 73-77 crosses the Missouri River, 0 m., on a toll bridge (*car and driver 20¢; each additional passenger 5¢*), leading into SOUTH SIOUX CITY, 1 m. (1,106 alt., 3,927 pop.); between this point and WINNEBAGO, 19.9 m. (653 pop.) (*see Tour 1*), US 77 and US 73 are united (*see Tour 1*).

WALTHILL, 26.2 m. (1,162 pop.), was named for Walter Hill, son of a builder of the Great Northern R. R. Settlement of the town began in 1906. Though most of the inhabitants are descendants of the early white settlers, a few Indians live here, as the town is on the Omaha Reservation.

At 28.2 m. is the junction with US 73W; between this point and Oakland the two routes are united.

At 37.2 m. is the junction with State 51, a graveled road.

Right on this road to a junction at 4.7 m.; R here to BANCROFT, 53 m. (1,318 alt., 660 pop.), named in honor of George Bancroft, the historian. Here is the HOME OF JOHN G. NEIHARDT (b. 1881), poet laureate of Nebraska (*see LITERATURE*). Following his graduation from Wayne State Teachers College, he came with his widowed mother and family to Bancroft, where he edited the *Bancroft Blade*. Proximity to the Indians here gave him opportunity to study their ways and customs.

OAKLAND, 49.8 m. (1,433 pop.), is in rich corn and alfalfa country. The town is a center for the raising and shipping of livestock.

At 51.9 m. is the junction with State 9, a graveled road.

Right on this road to WEST POINT, 11.1 m. (1,313 alt., 2,225 pop.), on the Elkhorn River. It was founded in 1857 by John D. Neligh, who set up a brickyard and sawmill here. The sawmill gave West Point an advantage over its rival, De Witt. A man named Gaul, hired to build the mill, was later discharged for incompetency. He joined forces with the opposition. Valuable pieces of mill machinery disappeared from time to time. Gaul and a confederate were charged with throwing them into the river. Omaha mechanics brought in to complete the mill were targets

for constant fire from Minié rifles in the hands of Gaul and his companion. A party of 30 men was organized. Proceeding to Gaul's place, they set fire to his hay and loaded his back with buckshot when he appeared to extinguish the fire. The other man was captured in a log house north of town and taken to a ravine where he was tried, convicted, and hanged on an oak tree.

The town, named by early settlers who thought of it as the western extremity of white settlement, suffered not only from Indian scares but also from wildcat banks. The Homestead Law of 1862 brought a great influx of settlers, and a district office was established at West Point in 1869.

Many of the settlers were of Pennsylvania Dutch stock. They have been honored on the bronze monument that marks the site of John D. Neligh's first claim. The monument stands in NELIGH PARK (*campsites free; recreational facilities*), a 27-acre tract west of Main St. It lies in the old river bed, and contains several lakes and lagoons shaded by cottonwoods.

At 441 Colfax St. is the CUMING COUNTY MUSEUM (*adm. free*). This seven-room house, standing back from the street among large cottonwood trees, was built in the sixties by the pioneer, John D. Neligh, and for years was noted as a center of western hospitality to friend and stranger alike. It is the oldest house now standing and contains pioneer relics.

HOOVER, 70.4 m. (1,228 alt., 985 pop.), has a HOG CHOLERA SERUM PLANT that supplies the entire region. The town was named for Samuel Hooper, of Boston, prominent in Congress during the Civil War.

Hooper is at the junction with State 8, which is united with US 77, between this point and 83.3 m.

Right from Hooper on State 8 (concrete paved) to SCRIBNER, 7.6 m. (1,254 alt., 1,066 pop.), the trade center of a district widely known for purebred cattle and hogs. The Scribner Stock Show has been held every fall for more than 30 years. The population is largely of German descent. John J. Blair of New Jersey, a prominent railroad official in early days, named the town for his son-in-law, Charles Scribner, founder of the Scribner publishing house of New York City. Scribner is headquarters of a power company that supplies electricity to seven towns.

Left from Scribner 1.5 m. on a dirt road to the Pebble Creek Monument, marking the SITE OF AN OLD WATER MILL built on Pebble Creek by James Robinson in 1869.

At 77.7 m. on US 77 is the junction with State 91, a graveled road.

Left on this road to FONTANELLE, 4.1 m. (128 pop.), whose name is a misspelling of the name of Logan Fontenelle. It was founded by people from Quincy, Ill., who dreamed of making it the capital of Nebraska Territory. The dream quickly faded, but the town was the seat of Dodge County until the county line was changed, placing Fontanelle in Washington County.

In 1855 Fontanelle received a charter from the legislature for a college. It was named Nebraska University. The following year an academy building was erected as the first unit. For a number of years the school flourished under the auspices of the First Congregational Church. Later, with the moving of the county seat to Fremont and the State government to Lincoln, the college, seeking a more central situation, abandoned its site here, a new college (Doane) was organized at Crete (*see Tour 9*).

At 79.3 m. is the MAJOR LONG MONUMENT (L), which marks an old Indian trail followed by Major Long (1820), and later by many adventurers and immigrants.

At 83 m. is RAWHIDE CREEK, which may or may not have been the scene of the event that is related in accounting for the name; the story is told in connection with other creeks of the same name. A member of one of the wagon trains traveling through this area had been annoying his more prudent fellow travelers by boasting that he was going to kill the

first Indian he saw. One day, supposedly on the bank of this stream, he carried out his boast. Unfortunately for him, the Indian he shot was scouting for a band lying beyond the hill. The Indians rushed forward, surrounded the emigrants, and, with considerable restraint, merely demanded the surrender of the aggressor. The leaders of the travelers, who had lost patience with the man after trying to restrain his rashness, recognized that he had forfeited his claim to their protection and turned him over to the aborigines. The Indians immediately fastened him to a tree and skinned him alive.

At 83.3 *m.* is the junction with US 30 (*see Tour 8*).

FREMONT, 85 *m.* (1,203 alt., 11,407 pop.) (*see FREMONT*).

Points of Interest: Midland College, Masonic Eastern Star Home for Children, Lutheran Orphans' Home, Western Theological Seminary, and others.

At 87.4 *m.* is the junction with a graveled road.

Left on this road to PAWNEE COUNCIL ROCK, 1.5 *m.*, where Gen. John M. Thayer held a council with the Pawnee (1855). In the spring of that year cattle belonging to settlers along Elkhorn River had been stolen by Indians. The Pawnee were suspected, and Governor Izard sent General Thayer to hold a powwow with Pita Lesharu, their chief. At this first council of the Territorial government and the Nebraska Indians, Pita Lesharu denied that the Pawnee were guilty, declaring that the cattle had been stolen and killed by the Ponca, and gave a pledge that the Pawnee would preserve peace.

LESHARA, 9 *m.* (110 pop.), is a comparatively new town (1906), named for the Pawnee chief, Pita Lesharu (*man chief*), whose tribe lived in this area. The town is near the site of the old Indian village.

At 92.7 *m.* on US 77 is a junction with a dirt road.

Right on this road to CEDAR BLUFFS, 0.5 *m.* (517 pop.).

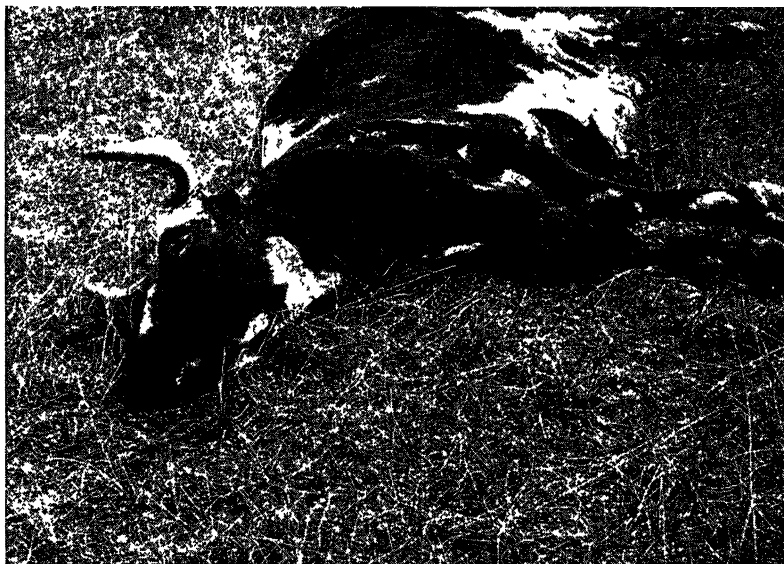
Right from Cedar Bluffs on an unmarked dirt road (between the schoolhouse and the church) to the SITE OF NEAPOLIS, 2.5 *m.*, indicated by a small white marker. Neapolis was selected as the capital of Nebraska Territory in January 1858, when the Territorial legislature decreed that the seat of government was to be removed from Omaha to a site not less than 50 miles west of the Missouri and not more than 6 miles from the Platte River. Numerous towns hotly argued their desirability, but the legislature finally chose the paper city of Neapolis as the most suitable place. But this bill passed by the illegal "Florence Session" (*see HISTORY*) of the legislature was soon voided. The hill on which Neapolis was to have been built is still called Capital Hill.

At 103.7 *m.* is the junction with State 16, a paved road.

Left on this road 10.6 *m.* to junction with a dirt road; L. at the junction to YUTAN, 11.3 *m.* (313 pop.), named for the Oto Indian chief, Ietan, whose people had a village of some 70 lodges here. The first Sunday school for Indians in Nebraska was established here. Bits of pottery have been unearthed in the vicinity.

WAHOO, 106 *m.* (1,187 alt., 2,689 pop.), known chiefly for its odd name derived from the Indian word for the red berry bushes, has been the home of Darryl Zanuck, the motion-picture director; Howard Hanson, the musician; and Sam Crawford, the baseball player.

The Saunders County Courthouse, built in 1905, is on the SITE OF AN INDIAN BURIAL GROUND, from which bones, skulls, arrows, and other relics were unearthed. The town was established on a campground of the Oto, who held the land south of the Platte.



THE DROUGHT, 1934

LUTHER COLLEGE, at the north end of Washington St., is a denominational college owned and controlled by the Nebraska Conference of the Augustana Synod of Lutheran Churches of America.

Enrollment averages 150. The school has four departments: the Academy, offering high school instruction; the Junior College and the Teachers' College; the School of Commerce; and the School of Music.

HAVLIK HALL, on Broadway, was a dance hall and saloon in pioneer days.

At 117 5 m. is a junction with a graveled road

Right on this road to CERESCO, 05 m. (1,189 alt., 391 pop.), named by its settlers for Ceresco, Mich

Right from Ceresco on a dirt road to CAMP KINNIKINNIK, 10 m. (*visitors permitted; cabins \$1; museum adm. fee 10¢*). This camp for boys, which has a museum containing pioneer relics, is on high rolling ground. There are three creeks and numerous springs here, as well as a good stand of timber. The kinnikinic bush grows profusely on the grounds. The name of the camp is misspelled to form a palindrome (a word that can be read backward).

LINCOLN, 136.5 m. (1,148 alt., 79,592 pop.) (*see LINCOLN*).

Points of Interest: State Capitol, University of Nebraska, State Historical Museum, Nebraska Wesleyan University, Home of William Jennings Bryan, and others.

See also *Lincoln City Guide*, American Guide Series (1937)

Lincoln is at the junction with US 6 (*see Tour 9*) and US 34 (*see Tour 10*).

The highway follows S. 13th St.; L. on High St. to 14th St.; south on 14th St.

The STATE PENITENTIARY, 139.6 m. (*open 9-11, 1:30-4:30 daily except Sat., Sun., and holidays*), is of gray limestone, three stories in height, built in 1867. The prison has accommodations for about a thousand convicts. Many of the men are given industrial training in the factories within the walls; about one-fourth attend the prison school; and there are facilities for recreation.

Right from the penitentiary on a paved road to the STATE HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, 2.4 m. (*open 1-3 daily, except Sat., Sun. and holidays*), established in 1870. When the first building burned to the ground in 1871, the city of Lincoln appropriated emergency funds that were later repaid by the State. A new four-story building of gray limestone, costing \$70,000, was finished in 1872. Wings and other buildings have since been added. Farming, gardening, and stock raising are carried on by the patients. In 1936 there were 1,250 patients and 150 employees.

Right from the hospital to a junction at 2.6 m.; L here; R at 4.1 m. to the STATE REFORMATORY FOR MEN, 4.5 m. (*open 9-11, 1-4:30 daily except holidays*), a red-brick structure. Here the Western Normal College was opened in September 1892; it was advertised as being elegantly outfitted with solid-oak furniture and woolen carpets. It functioned only 4 years. In September 1908 the building was reopened as the home of Nebraska Military Academy. After the founder's death the school was discontinued. During the World War the building was used by the Army.

In 1921 the old college building was purchased by the State for an institution to house boys and men between the ages of 16 and 30 who at the time of conviction are considered capable of reform. The youths engage in farming, gardening, stock raising, and dairying and make license plates and highway markers. Elementary education is provided.

BEATRICE, 176.4 m. (1,235 alt., 10,297 pop.) (*see BEATRICE*).

Points of Interest: Veterans Memorial Drive, Athletic Park, Chautauqua Park, and others.

Beatrice is at the junction with State 3 (*see Tour 11*).

WYMORE, 190.8 m. (1,222 alt., 2,680 pop.), was developed as a division point for the Denver-Kansas line of the Burlington Route. More than 400 men are employed in the roundhouse, on the repair track, in the train service, and in the offices. The town has a flour mill with a daily output of 250 barrels.

This region was an Indian reservation occupied by the Oto and Missouri in 1855. In 1882 the Indians were removed to Oklahoma.

There are five parks—four belonging to the city and one privately owned (*open to public; swimming*).

At 200 m. US 77 crosses the Kansas line, 11 miles north of Marysville, Kans. (*see KANSAS Tour 10*).



Tour 3

(Yankton, S. Dak.)—Norfolk—Columbus—York—Fairmont—Hebron—(Belleville, Kans.); US 81.

Missouri River to Kansas Line, 235.8 m.

Between Norfolk and Columbus, the Union Pacific RR parallels the route; between Stromsburg and Kansas, the Burlington Route.

Bus service between Yankton and Norfolk, by way of Hartington and Randolph; and between Columbus and to Stromsburg. Bus lines Norfolk to Belleville. Graveled roadbed, except for stretch of bituminous mat 16 m. south of Norfolk.

Accommodations limited in small towns, hotels in cities.

This route, like US 77 and US 73, runs through the eastern farming section of the State. In the northern part the chief crop is hay, and the country is rough and frequently hilly. Throughout the central and southern parts the road is fairly level, hilly only in spots, with no sharp or dangerous corners.

At 0 m. US 81 crosses the Missouri River on a toll bridge (*50¢ for car and driver; 10¢ each additional passenger*), 1.5 miles south of Yankton, S. Dak. (*see S. Dak. Tour 10*).

CROFTON, 14.2 m. (733 pop.), named for Crofton Court, England, is at the junction with State 12 (*see Tour 13*).

At 24.2 m. on US 81 is the junction with State 84.

Right on this graveled road to BLOOMFIELD, 6.2 m. (1,703 alt., 1,435 pop.), settled on October 2, 1890, when town lots were offered at public sale. The sale attracted nearly 500 men eager to pay from \$70 to \$400 for land. After the sale, which lasted until nightfall, meals were served in a hastily built shanty. The town was named for Bloomington Dyer, owner of the land.

CENTER, 20.4 m. (130 pop.), was so named because it is the geographical center of Knox County, of which it is the seat. The town was founded to end a 40-year dispute about which of four towns—Niobrara, Creighton, Verdigre, or Bloomfield—was to be the county seat. When a vote did not settle the matter, the county was surveyed and the geographical center was found to lie in a cornfield. Each of the two owners of the field contributed 20 acres, and thus Center began its existence. A new courthouse was built in 1934.

Left from Center on State 14 to BAZILE MILLS, 28.3 m. (76 pop.), which was once an important mill town on Bazile Creek. A woolen mill, built in 1882 about 1.5 miles north of the town, was one of the first in the State.

WAUSA, 31.6 m. (1,780 alt., 754 pop.), the center of a quiet Swedish community, was founded by two Lutheran ministers, Gogelstrom and Torell, who named it in honor of the Swedish King, Gustavus Vasa. The spelling was changed to conform to the sound of the word.

At 41.2 m. is the west junction with US 20 (*see Tour 7*). Between this point and a junction at 42.2 m., US 81 and US 20 are one route (*see Tour 7*). In this region the highway passes over many low hills that are almost treeless.

PIERCE, 53.8 *m.* (1,583 alt., 1,271 pop.), seat of Pierce County, was named for President Franklin Pierce. The first settlement was made in 1870, and J. H. Brown built the first house of sod and slabs on the bank of Willow Creek. It served not only as a dwelling but as hotel, post office, and courthouse as well.

NORFOLK, 68 *m.* (1,532 alt., 10,717 pop.) (*see NORFOLK*).

Points of Interest: Norfolk Livestock Sales Company's Main Pavilion, Central Park, Johnson Park, Dederman Log House, and others.

Norfolk is at the junction with State 8, a graveled road, partly paved.

1 Right on State 8 to the Elkhorn River, 8.7 *m.*; after crossing the river this highway passes the SITE OF PAWNEE BATTLEGROUND, 8.9 *m.* (R). In 1859, as the Pawnee were migrating up the valley of the Elkhorn after agreeing to give up their land on the Platte River above Fremont, they robbed the settlers, and shot and wounded a white man near West Point. Gen. John M. Thayer was ordered to follow and punish the Indians. On the morning of July 12, 1859, the soldiers surprised the Pawnee in camp, and charged them. The chief seized an American flag and rushed toward General Thayer, shouting, "Good Indian! No shoot!" After a parley the Pawnee surrendered six men and paid for all damage. The site is still referred to as a battleground, although no one was wounded and scarcely a shot was fired.

TILDEN, 22.1 *m.* (1,679 alt., 1,106 pop.), lying partly in Madison County and partly in Antelope County, was named for Samuel J. Tilden of New York, lawyer and Democratic candidate in the bitterly-contested Presidential election of 1876. The town was surveyed and platted in 1880. At the north edge of Tilden, in the old ROWELL LAKE RECREATION GROUNDS, is a modern community SWIMMING POOL, the only one within a radius of 25 miles.

2 Left from Norfolk on State 8 to NORFOLK STATE HOSPITAL, 2 *m.* Founded in 1887 for the care of the mentally ill, the institution now has 29 buildings on the grounds. Drives and flower-bordered walks connect the buildings. In winter and inclement weather underground passageways are used. In 1937 there were 1,056 patients in the hospital, cared for by a staff of 150. The patients help farm the 975 acres owned by the institution.

STANTON, 12.3 *m.* (1,472 alt., 1,479 pop.), seat of Stanton County, was settled by Germans from Wisconsin in 1869.

PILGER, 24.3 *m.* (1,410 alt., 578 pop.), center of a hog-raising region, was laid out in 1880 and named for the owner of the land. Nearby is the FARM OF ED. RENNICK, breeder of prize-winning Hampshire hogs. From this farm came Blue Boy, world champion, that went to Hollywood and appeared in the motion picture *State Fair*.

WISNER, 32.1 *m.* (1,380 alt., 1,327 pop.), platted in 1871 and named for a vice-president of the Sioux City & Pacific R.R., is a livestock center in fertile Elkhorn valley, serving both as a feeding and shipping point.

At 70.1 *m.* US 81 crosses the Elkhorn River.

MADISON, 83.8 *m.* (1,581 alt., 1,842 pop.), seat of Madison County, was founded in 1866 by a German colony of 24 families from Wisconsin, led by Herman Braasch. The pioneers returned to bring back their household goods. Upon their return they found that a party led by Frank Barnes had taken up land adjoining theirs.

One of Madison's pioneer physicians and its first coroner answered to the name of John Quincy Adams Harvey. He became "Doctor" because he had read a few medical books and did some emergency practice. Called on one occasion to a homestead cabin whose occupant had been found frozen.



WHEAT IN SHOCKS

to death, Coroner Harvey opened the door, glanced in, and instantly pronounced his verdict, "Deader 'n hell!"

In 1881 some 200 miles of hedges and 1,500,000 forest trees were planted in Madison County. Watermelons are grown by farmers in the vicinity, one of whom annually holds a Watermelon Day on which visitors to the farm may eat all they want for 10 cents.

HUMPHREY, 95 *m.* (1,648 alt, 854 pop.), was laid out and platted in 1880 by James E. North, county surveyor for the Omaha, Niobrara, and Black Hills R. R. Company. Mrs. Leach, first postmistress, named the town for Humphrey, N. Y., her former home.

At 110 *m.* is the junction with State 22, a graveled road.

Right on this road to MONROE, 6 *m.* (293 pop.) At 9 *m.* is the MONROE POWER HOUSE, with three generators capable of developing 7,800 kilowatts at 6,900 volts. It is part of the Loup River Power Project.

At GENOA, 14 *m.* (1,520 alt, 1,089 pop.), is the SITE OF AN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL FOR INDIANS, opened by the Federal Government in March 1884, and operated for 50 years. Near Genoa was once the Pawnee Indian Reservation, and the district is rich in arrowheads, beads, and other relics.

At 15.5 *m.* is the SITE OF A PAWNEE CITY, believed to be 250 years old. It lies north of the highway about 0.5 miles on the highest point of land at the junction of the Beaver and Loup Valleys, protected on three sides by cliffs, commanding a view for many miles. The village, once occupied by about 2,500 Indians, has been excavated. In the largest house were found the bodies of 54 Indians, evidently

killed while defending themselves against attack. Charred corn and the remains of an altar indicated that the house had been burned. Dozens of caches containing pottery and tools have been unearthed. One rare find was a bow made of elk horn, one of the first of its kind to be found in Nebraska. Some evidence was also revealed to support the belief that the Spanish invasion of 1720 reached this point.

Southwest of Genoa is the DIVERSION DAM of the Loup River Project, at 18 m., which, with its DESILTING WORKS supplies the canal tapped by both Monroe and Columbus powerhouses.

COLUMBUS, 1177 m. (1,441 alt., 6,898 pop.) (*see Tour 8*), is at the junction with US 30 (*see Tour 8*).

Crossing the Platte River, the highway proceeds through dry bluff lands. According to an old story, a thirsty traveler passing this way in the early days spied a sod house off the road and went over to get water. The house was empty, but nearby was a well with windlass and wooden bucket. He dropped the bucket down, and it came up dry. He repeated the operation with no greater success. Then his eye caught a notice on the house, reading, "This Claim for sale. Four miles to the nearest neighbor. Seven miles to the nearest schoolhouse. Fourteen miles to the nearest town. Two hundred feet to the nearest water. God bless our home! For further information address Thomas Ward, Oskaloosa, Iowa."

OSCEOLA, 144.4 m. (1,637 alt., 1,054 pop.), surveyed and platted in June 1872, was named for the famous Seminole chief. Osceola is also the name of a black medicinal drink used in certain Indian ceremonies. The surrounding district produces much broomcorn; Osceola has a large BROOM FACTORY.

Grasshoppers plagued the early settlers and tested their patience to an extreme. "Our foreign readers must forgive us for giving so much grasshopper news," wrote the Osceola *Homesteader* in July 1874. "We really cannot help it. The air is filled with them, the ground is covered with them, and people think and talk of nothing else. It rains grasshoppers, and snows grasshoppers. We cannot walk the streets without being struck in the face and eyes by grasshoppers, and we cannot sleep for dreaming grasshoppers, and if the little devils do not leave for some other clime soon, we shall go grasshopper crazy."

STROMSBURG, 151.6 m. (1,627 alt., 1,320 pop.), settled by Swedes who purchased the land here in 1872, lies in the Blue River Valley, on an elevated plain. Stromsburg was the home of C. H. Morrill, patron of archaeological research, who gave Morrill Hall to the University of Nebraska.

Stromsburg and Osceola were once bitter rivals in their desire to become the county seat of Polk County. An election was held in 1916 to decide the issue. Osceola won, largely because it had widely distributed small cardboard maps with pins stuck in at Osceola. As the map more or less balanced on the pin, this proved Osceola's claim that it was "the center of the county."

At 152.2 m. US 81 crosses the Big Blue River.

YORK, 169.1 m. (1,634 alt., 5,712 pop.) (*see Tour 10*), is at the junction with US 34 (*see Tour 10*).

FAIRMONT, 185.9 m. (1,643 alt., 740 pop.) (*see Tour 9*), is at the junction with US 6 (*see Tour 9*).

At GENEVA, 194.1 *m.* (1,634 alt., 1,662 pop.), named for Geneva, N. Y., is the GIRLS' INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL for juvenile delinquents, established here to take care of girls formerly sent to the Kearney school. The first buildings were erected in 1891. The institution owns 70 acres of land; 27 employees care for its 190 inmates.

HEBRON, 222.4 *m.* (1,458 alt., 1,804 pop.) (*see Tour 11*), is at the junction with State 3 (*see Tour 11*)

At 235.8 *m.* US 81 crosses the Kansas Line, 13 miles north of Belleville, Kans. (*See KANSAS Tour 9.*)



Tour 4

(Fairfax, S. Dak.)—Butte—O'Neill—Bartlett—St. Paul—Grand Island—Hastings—Red Cloud—(Lebanon, Kans.); US 281.
South Dakota Line to Kansas Line, 241.4 *m.*

Between St. Paul and Grand Island, the Union Pacific R.R. parallels the route; between Grand Island and Hastings, the St. Joseph & Grand Island R.R., between Hastings and Cowles, the Burlington Route. Bus service, main and connecting lines, O'Neill to Red Cloud.

Graveled roadbed throughout, except for occasional short stretches of bituminous mat or concrete pavement near cities.

Accommodations limited outside cities.

The highway runs through the largest hay-producing region in the State, through the sand-hill country, and into an agricultural district inhabited mostly by people of Danish descent, whose pioneer farming efforts have been largely responsible for the development of the region.

At 0 *m.* US 281 crosses the South Dakota Line, 2.2 miles south of Fairfax, S. Dak. (*see S. Dak. Tour 11*). South of this point the highway runs through rolling prairie country.

At 4.7 *m.* is the west junction with State 12 (*see Tour 13*); between this point and 19.5 *m.* US 281 and State 12 are united.

SPENCER, 17.2 *m.* (653 pop.), named for Spencer, Iowa, home of the town's first settlers, was founded in 1889 near the dam south of the town. A year later it was removed to the slope where it now stands.

At 19.5 *m.* is the junction with State 12 (*see Tour 13*).

At 23 *m.* the highway crosses the Niobrara River. At the WHITING BRIDGE POWER DAM (L) is a hydroelectric plant that furnishes power to a wide territory. From this point there is a view of the river winding through the hills.

For several miles the highway passes through a rugged countryside, then comes to a level stretch, with many sharp curves.

At 45.8 *m* is the junction (R) with US 20 (*see Tour 7*).

O'NEILL, 47.8 *m* (1,978 alt., 2,019 pop.) (*see Tour 7*), is at the junction with US 20 (*see Tour 7*).

South of O'Neill the highway passes through the hay-producing region of Nebraska. This country is tableland or gently rolling prairie, with black sandy soil. The many lakes, creeks, and streams of the region provide a good water supply. Unlike the more cultivated farming sections of the State, the region today looks much as it did in pioneer days.

At 70.8 *m*. is the junction with a dirt road.

Left on this sandy road, marked by signs, to GOOSE LAKE RECREATIONAL GROUNDS (*fishing free; camping permitted*), 4.2 *m*, 350 acres. The lake (dry in 1936) is ordinarily stocked with catfish, crappies, and bullheads.

At 82 *m*. is a filling station and cafe; there is no other station between this point and Bartlett.

BARTLETT, 88.9 *m*. (133 pop.), a sand hill village, the seat of Wheeler County, was laid out in 1885 and named for Ezra Bartlett Mitchell, first settler.

The principal occupations of this section are farming and stock raising. The North Loup River flows through the southwest part of Wheeler County, Cedar Creek through the central part, and Beaver Creek and branches of the Elkhorn through the northeast. The valleys are fertile; the surrounding sand dunes are used for grazing. There are a few planted groves, but little native timber.

SPALDING, 111.1 *m*. (1,878 alt., 839 pop.), a small business community on the Cedar River, was named for Bishop Spalding, president of the Irish Catholic Association that founded the town.

At Spalding is the junction with State 32, a graded dirt road.

Right on this road to the junction with a sandy road, 3.4 *m*; R here to the PIBEL LAKE RECREATION GROUNDS (*fishing free, 4 a.m. to 10 p.m.*), 12.8 *m*.

Left from Pibel Lake to LAKE ERICSON (*adm. 50¢, cabins \$1.50 a day*), 21.7 *m*. The lake attracts many duck hunters every fall.

At 124.3 *m*. on US 281 is the west junction with State 56, a graveled road.

Right on this road to GREELEY, 6.3 *m*. (2,021 alt., 857 pop.), seat of Greeley County. The town was founded by Thomas Fox, who bought the land and named the town for Horace Greeley. The FIRST SCHOOL here was a small building placed on wheels so that it could be moved as often as desired; the building stands today as a lean-to on the back of a store building. The old FOLEY BUILDING was first a bank, then a newspaper office, later a lawyer's office, grocery store, drygoods store, finally a cafe, and is now abandoned.

At 143.7 *m*. the highway crosses the North Loup River.

ST PAUL, 147.2 *m*. (1,815 alt., 1,621 pop.), is a trading center of an agricultural area and a shipping point, at the fork of the North and South Loup Rivers. In 1870 James N. Paul, a surveyor, came up the Loup Valley with Maj. Frank North, Pawnee scout, on a hunting trip. Paul was impressed with the country and considered founding a town at the river

fork. Having discussed the matter with his brother, Nicholas, and with the vice-consul of Denmark, Paul and 31 other settlers founded the town in 1871 and named it Athens because of its physical surroundings. When it was learned that Nebraska already had a town of Athens, the citizens adopted the name St. Paul, suggested by Senator Phineas W. Hitchcock.

The highway skirts the eastern edge of the town, close to the river, then curves around to higher ground.

The region west of St. Paul was settled by Danish farmers attracted by free Government land. In 1870 the Danish Land and Homestead Colony of Milwaukee, Wis., sent out a committee composed of Lars Hannibal, John Seehusen, L. M. Petersen, and Paul Hansen. They selected land near Oak Creek, southwest of St. Paul, and in the spring of 1871 Lars Hannibal and six of his countrymen made the first settlement. They made their dugouts as secluded as possible, fearing the Indian tribes in the Northwest. A dozen more Danish settlers soon arrived, followed by C. O. Schlytern, with a group of Swedish people, who settled southwest of the Danish colony. In 1872 a post office was established on the homestead of Lars Hannibal and named for Denmark's national emblem—Dannebrog. In 1873 a few new settlers arrived, but growth was checked for a time by the ravages of grasshoppers and other pests. The settlements had no military protection until Fort Hartsuff was built in the fall of 1874.

A railroad was built to St. Paul in 1881, and four years later was extended to Dannebrog. By this time settlers were crowding in again to grow wheat and corn, and raise livestock. The railroad provided an outlet for all these products. Soon other Danish settlements grew up. The town of Nysted, a typical Danish community, was founded in 1883. Within a few years it had a Lutheran church, a social hall, and a people's high school, organized for adult education on the model of those in Denmark. Another settlement was Dannevirke, named for a wall once built by the Danes to stop German aggression. In 1910 the Danes in the county numbered 2,400, about one-fifth of the population. With the exception of Omaha, there are more Danes in Howard County than in any other part of the State.

At St. Paul is the junction with State 11, a graveled road.

Right on State 11 to ELBA, 10.3 *m.* (286 pop.), a Danish community incorporated in 1886. Right from Elba on a dirt road to the RUINS OF AN OLD DWELLING, 13.3 *m.*, partly buried in the banks of Munson Creek in fertile North Loup Valley. The house, a rectangle 27 feet wide by 33 long, antedates Columbus' discovery of America. Ashes, charcoal, flint chips, charred grains of corn, and broken pieces of pottery have been found in the ruins.

GRAND ISLAND, 168.9 *m.* (1,864 alt., 18,041 pop.) (*see GRAND ISLAND*).

Points of Interest: Roman Catholic Cathedral, St. Francis Hospital, American Crystal Sugar Company Plant, Pioneer Park, Grand Island Airport.

Grand Island is at the junction with US 30 (*see Tour 8*) and State 2 (*see Tour 10*). US 281 and State 2 branch south from the city on Locust St., and are united between Grand Island and a point at 171.5 *m.*

At 170.5 *m.* is the junction with State 70, a concrete paved road.

Right on State 70 to STOLLEY STATE PARK, 0.9 m. (*adm. free; no camping permitted; no cabins available*). This grove of trees on the sandy shallows of the Platte River was planted by William Stolley, who broke ground for the first settlement in Hall County and built Fort Independence. The 43-acre park has gardens, walks, drives, and several old buildings. the solid old FARM HOME OF THE STOLLEYS (*private*), now occupied by the park superintendent, an old FRAME SCHOOLHOUSE, the first in the county, a LOG HOUSE, with the original slough-grass roof.

The park has several shady picnicking spots and grounds for playing baseball, handball, and volleyball. Early in the summer of 1857 William Stolley arrived here with a train of heavily laden wagons drawn by 16 oxen, and took up a claim by squatter's right. Born in Germany, Stolley had been for a time assistant to his brother George, a naturalist, and had spent three years collecting specimens for Professor Agassiz in the Lake and Mississippi States. Always a fervent advocate of foresting the bare prairie land, Stolley set an example in the groves planted on his own claim. He set out 6,000 trees in 1860, many of which are still alive. The groves now contain more than 50 varieties of trees, including such exotics as German linden and birch, Norwegian spruce, Austrian pine, Russian and Persian lilac, kinnikinnick, persimmon, button bush, and yew. Many groves on the prairies of Hall County have grown from seedlings obtained from Stolley.

In other ways William Stolley was a community leader. He established a market for the settlers' corn at Fort Kearney, and obtained help from Washington during the grasshopper invasions. When hostile Indians attacked the Oregon Trail emigrants and outlying posts in 1864, and many settlers left in a panic, Stolley built Fort Independence and raised over it a home-made United States flag.

The SITE OF FORT INDEPENDENCE is 150 yards south of the Stolley home. A log structure 24 feet square, with 25 loopholes, it was heavily banked with sod for protection against flaming arrows. The fort had an underground stable 88 feet long, large enough to accommodate the entire company and its horses. Some timbers of the fort have been used in the present buildings of the park.

Stolley grove was presented to the State in 1927 by the citizens of Grand Island and Hall County. After the drought of 1934 a modern irrigation system was installed to preserve the timber.

At 171 m. the highway crosses the north channel of the Platte River.

At 171.5 m. is the junction with State 2 (*see Tour 10*).

At 181.4 m., where the highway turns L., is a junction with a graveled road.

1. Right here to a junction with a graveled and weed-covered lane at 1.8 m.; R. here to the CAMPBELL DUNLAP MONUMENT, 2.4 m. On the granite monument, which is in an enclosure holding five graves, are these names. Infant Tannahill, 1888; Agnes Rentoul Campbell, Mother, 1866; Christian Campbell Dunlap, Daughter, 1924; John Campbell, Grandfather, 1869; Janet Rentoul Campbell, Grandmother, 1867.

The monument serves as a gravestone and also as a memorial of an Indian raid (July 1867) on the ranch of Peter Campbell, about 10 miles south of Grand Island. As no men were at home the Sioux gained entrance easily. They killed Mrs. Thurston Warren and her son, and kidnapped Campbell's two nieces and his twin boys. Several months later the Government ransomed these captives from the Sioux by paying \$4,000 and releasing a squaw and a papoose captured at Elm Creek by Ed Arnold and the Pawnee Scouts. At the same time the Indians killed Henry Dose, a German neighbor, and plundered his house.

2. Right from US 281 4 m. on a dirt road; L. here; R. at 4.5 m.; L. at 5.5 m.; R. at 6 m.; L. at 7 m.; R. at 7.2 m. to the MARTIN FARM, 9 m. (*open at all times*). The history of this farm dates back to 1850 when George Martin, an English emigrant, was traveling over the Oregon Trail, and decided to settle here. One day after his home had been established, when Martin and his sons were hauling hay, Indians appeared, wounded the father, and shot arrows at the sons. The boys turned their horses loose, climbed on a pony and raced for their lives with the Indians in pur-



STOLLEY STATE PARK

suit. According to an old story, an arrow hit one boy in the back, passed through his body, and entered his brother's shoulder, pinning the two together. One of the boys fainted and fell, pulling his brother and the pony over with him. Left for dead by the Indians, the boys were found by their parents who uncoupled them and nursed them back to health.

Only one of the first farm buildings remains—a GRANARY built partly of cedar logs taken from old Fort Kearney. Many large cottonwoods standing here were planted by the Martins. In early days Martin kept a tavern and was the postmaster of the settlement called Martinville.

In this vicinity are examples of TRI-COUNTY IRRIGATION PROJECT work. Plans have been made to irrigate an area 90 miles long and 20 to 35 miles wide in Gosper, Phelps, Kearney and Adams Counties (*see NATURAL RESOURCES.*)

HASTINGS, 194.6 *m.* (1,932 alt., 15,490 pop.) (*see HASTINGS.*)

Points of Interest: Masonic Temple, Highland Park, Heartwell Park, Hastings City Museum, Hastings College, St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, and others.

Hastings is at the junction with US 6 (*see Tour 9.*)

US 281 branches south from the city on Burlington Ave.

At 205.2 *m.* the highway crosses the Little Blue River.

BLUE HILL, 214.8 *m.* (1,970 alt., 669 pop.), on a tableland between the Republican and Blue Rivers, was surveyed and platted in 1878. The small German settlement grew steadily and became a shipping point for wheat and livestock.

RED CLOUD, 235.3 *m.* (1,690 alt., 1,519 pop.) (*see Tour 11.*), is at the junction with State 3 (*see Tour 11.*)

This part of the State is especially suitable for diversified farming. Winter wheat, corn, oats, barley, and other grains are raised, also a large amount of alfalfa. The many streams that flow into the Republican River are lined with trees. The country is rolling, some parts more or less broken.

At 288.3 *m.* is the junction with a dirt road.

Left on this road to a junction at 4 *m.*; R. here to the SITE OF THE PIKE PAWNEE VILLAGE, 5.5 *m.*, on a farm owned by A. T. Hill, director of the Nebraska State Historical Society Museum, who bought the farm to preserve the site.

Lt Zebulon M. Pike and 21 men stopped here in 1806 while on their way to the Rockies. Pike and his party camped across the river from a "commanding hill" that overlooked the valley and an Indian village.

Pawnee Indians had lived here while one nation after another laid claim to their bluffs, their ravines, their rivers, and their hunting grounds. Three weeks before Pike came, 300 Spanish cavalymen under Colonel Malgares had brought them many presents and a promise to open a road for trade. The Indians permitted him to hoist the Spanish flag.

Pike held a grand council with the Pawnee on September 29, 1806, four days after his arrival, and finally convinced them that they could not have two flags. A long silence followed. Then an old Indian arose and went to the lodge over which the Spanish flag floated. He took down the flag, laid it at the feet of Pike, took the American flag, and raised it on the staff. This ended Spanish authority in Nebraska and on the plains of the Middle West.

From the many Indian graves here have been unearthed pottery, rude stone and metal implements, beads, arrows, arrow points (cut by the Indians from metal hoes), battle-axes, stone clubs, and grain grinders. The extent of the ruins indicates that the village was large. Excavations have also brought to light many Spanish and English medals and coins, among them a Spanish peace medal dated 1797 and bear-



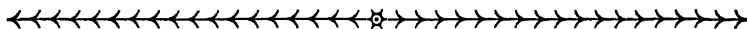
MAILBOX, KEARNEY FARMSTRADS

ing the head of Charles III of Spain, and an English medal bearing the image of George III and the date 1762

The Pike Pawnee site was discovered in 1923. Investigation here by Smithsonian archeologists indicates that the monument commemorating Pike's council with the Pawnee near Republic, Kans., is of doubtful authenticity.

At 237.2 *m.* the highway crosses the Republican River

At 241.4 *m.* US 281 crosses the Kansas Line, 15 miles north of Lebanon, Kans.



Tour 5

(Colome, S. Dak.)—Springview—Bassett—Taylor—Ansley—Kearney—Elm Creek—Holdrege—Alma—(Woodruff, Kans.); US 83.

South Dakota Line to Kansas Line, 257 *m.*

Between Ansley and the junction with State 2, the Burlington Route parallels the route; between Kearney and Elm Creek, the Union Pacific R.R. Bus service between Taylor and the junction with State 2, and between Kearney and Elm Creek Graveled road, except for concrete pavement between Kearney and Elm Creek, and a stretch of oiled roadbed 14 miles north of Alma. Accommodations limited in small towns, hotels chiefly in cities.

US 83 traverses three different and contrasting types of Nebraska countryside: the hay-producing region in the north, the sand hill section in the middle, the farming country in the south. Small towns appear at long intervals in the northern part, at shorter intervals in the south. Perhaps the most interesting part of the route lies in the sand hill region between Bassett and Taylor, where there are few farmhouses, few cattle, and no towns. The sand hills here differ from those farther west in being smaller, lighter in color, and more jagged. On the second half of the route, especially south of Taylor, the countryside is typical prairie land of central Nebraska.

At 0 m. US 83 crosses the South Dakota Line, 22 miles south of Colome, S. Dak. (*see S. Dak. Tour 12*).

SPRINGVIEW, 12.7 m. (307 pop.), seat of Keyapaha County, is the trading center of this north-central Nebraska region.

Keyapaha County (pronounced *Key-ab-pa-ha*) is named for a river in the northern part of the county. The name is derived from a Sioux word meaning turtle hill. Keyapaha is one of the few counties in the State that has never had a railroad.

At Springview is the junction with State 72, a gravelled road.

Right on this road to the junction with State 7, 2.9 m; L on State 7 to MEADVILLE, 9.1 m. In an interesting spot on the Niobrara River, Meadville lies almost deserted today. The town was named for one Mead, postmaster, road overseer, ferry owner, and roadhouse proprietor. Mead had studied for the ministry, but had lost his faith and took great delight in blasphemy. Capt. Charles H. Frady, pioneer missionary, held a meeting here and brought Mead back into the fold. He then became so devout that, one Sunday, when he happened upon a swimming party, he shot at the people in the river and threatened to kill anyone he again caught desecrating the Sabbath.

South of Springview the terrain is almost mountainous, with fir trees, rolling hills, and the blue Niobrara winding far below. North of River-view the highway winds its way down into the Niobrara Valley.

RIVERVIEW, 27.4 m. (14 pop.), is in a region that blooms in spring with a profusion of wild flowers, so numerous and varied that they appear to be cultivated. There are wild roses, pink and fragrant, and wild sweet peas in lavender shades. Bittersweet, sumac, and river grasses are used for winter bouquets.

The highway approaches the river by way of high bluffs that afford a broad view of the surrounding valley.

At 28 m. US 83 crosses the Niobrara River.

BASSETT, 40 m. (2,326 alt., 635 pop.) (*see Tour 7*), is at the north junction with US 20 (*see Tour 7*).

At 42.4 m. is the south junction with US 20 (*see Tour 7*). At this point the highway enters the deserted central part of the sand-hill country; there is no town for 60 miles.

At 51.5 *m.* the hills are seen at their best. They are slightly larger and more rounded than those on the northern part of the route. There are few trees here.

At 88.3 *m.* the highway crosses the Calamus River at HORSESHOE BEND, a ford in the stream. Along the valleys of both the Calamus and the North Loup Rivers are sites of Indian villages that flourished when the Pawnee and the Arikari lived in the land north of the Platte. There is good fishing where the highway follows the river.

TAYLOR, 102.3 *m.* (272 pop.), the seat of Loup County, was named in 1881 in honor of Ed Taylor, local pioneer. During the drought and hard times of the nineties, stores were closed, one or two banks failed, and a general decline set in. Good crop years returned, however, and conditions improved. All stores have survived the current depression. The County School Exhibit and Field Day is held annually the first Saturday in May.

Right from Taylor on a country road through CHEESEBROUGH CANYON, 5 *m.*, covered with cedars, one of the most beautiful spots in Loup County.

At 103.5 *m.* on US 83 is the junction with State 53, a graveled road.

Left on State 53 to the DRY BED OF SIOUX CREEK, 5.7 *m.*, now cultivated land KENT, 6 *m.* (no pop.), first town in Loup County and once the county seat, is now deserted, having an old schoolhouse remaining.

BURWELL, 14.5 *m.* (2,182 alt., 1,156 pop.), the seat of Garfield County, has an annual rodeo, held for 4 days early in August (*free camping space*). Cowboys ride for purses and trophies in the usual rodeo contests, and Sioux Indians and cavalry troops also participate. A carnival and county fair are held in connection with the rodeo.

Burwell grew up about a post office named The Forks, later known for a time as Webster's Town, for the man who platted the town site. The Webster family subsequently changed the name to Burwell, to honor a young woman who was engaged to a member of the family. Situated at a bend in the North Loup River not far from the mouth of the Calamus River, the town was well planned with an octagonal public square. Later, parts of the square were sold for building sites, which spoiled the founders' plan and the town's appearance. The two-story frame courthouse is in the southeastern part of the town.

In Burwell is a large HAY STACKER FACTORY. As terminal of a spur of the Burlington Lines, the town serves as a gateway to the great sand-hill region to the north, a cattle- and sheep-grazing country. Farming is carried on in the North Loup Valley, alfalfa, brome grass, and English bluegrass furnish rich hay.

South of Taylor US 83 runs through hilly, heavily wooded country, with occasional level stretches. Near Taylor, where the sand hills fall away, the country begins to resemble the eastern Nebraska prairies.

SARGENT, 111.8 *m.* (2,341 alt., 834 pop.), laid out in 1883, is one of the oldest towns in Custer County. While the Burlington Route was building a spur to the north in the summer of 1888, Sargent was a lively, prosperous town. A strike on the system delayed its completion till 1899. Meanwhile, the drought years of the early nineties brought a decline.

Sargent lies in the Middle Loup River valley, an area favorable for the raising of grain and livestock. The town's population is largely Bohemian and Polish.

Right from Sargent on a dirt road to DORIS LAKE (*adm. free; camping free*), 6 *m.* Once the site of a flour mill, it now has a power plant. The lake affords good fishing and swimming, with shaded grounds for picnicking.



SOD HOUSE

At 112.6 *m.*, in a pasture on the A. F. Allen farm (R), is the SITE OF A FORTIFIED CAMP. Just when this fort was built, and by whom, is not definitely known, as the site was grass-covered when settlers first came into the country.

On a rise of ground commanding Clear Creek Valley in every direction, the camp appears to have consisted of 108 rifle pits, arranged in the shape of an ellipse enclosing 5 or 6 acres. Though the sides and bottoms of the trenches are covered with grass, their form is still distinct.

According to an old story, Indians once robbed a Kearney bank of \$40,000 in jewels and gold, which they buried on the Allen farm just before they were overtaken and killed. The treasure, if there is any, has never been found. The skeptical owners of the farm have never looked for it. A widow in a nearby town, however, was once persuaded by a gold hunter in need of a job to pay him a handsome sum to dig for the gold at night. Nothing was found before he was discovered and driven off. The Allens preferred no charges.

WESTERVILLE, 129.2 *m.* (58 pop.), the oldest town in Custer County, stands in a grove of trees in Clear Creek Valley. Three of the scattered buildings are more than 50 years old, among them the old village church, which has lost its belfry.

At 135.6 *m.* is the north junction with State 2 (*see Tour 10*). Between this point and 164.1 *m.*, US 83 and State 2 are united (*see Tour 10*).

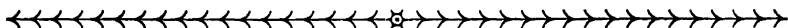
KEARNEY, 191 *m.* (2,150 alt., 8,575 pop.) (*see Tour 8*), is at the eastern junction with US 30 (*see Tour 8*). Between this point and ELM CREEK, 206.2 *m.* (1,067 alt., 708 pop.) (*see Tour 8*), US 83 and US 30 are united (*see Tour 8*). Left on US 83.

HOLDREGE, 226 1 *m.* (2,327 alt., 3,263 pop.) (*see Tour 9*), is at the junction with US 6 (*see Tour 9*).

Farther south is ALMA, 250 3 *m.* (1,942 alt., 1,235 pop.) (*see Tour 11*), at the junction with State 3 (*see Tour 11*).

At 251.8 *m.* the highway crosses the Republican River, the source of destructive floods in times of heavy rain

At 257 *m.* US 83 crosses the Kansas Line, 37 miles northeast of Norton, Kans. (*see KANS.*, *Tour 8*).



Tour 6

(Hot Springs, S. D.)—Chadron—Alliance—Bridgeport—Sidney—(Sterling, Colo.); State 19.

South Dakota Line to Colorado Line, 174 *m.*

Between Alliance and the Colorado Line, the Burlington Route parallels the highway. Two bus lines follow this route—one between Chadron and Alliance, and one (Scottsbluff-Sterling line) between Alliance and Sidney.

Bituminous mat and graveled roadbed

Accommodations available only in large towns, which are far apart.

The route runs through a scenic, thinly settled tableland region, crosses the White River, and winds through the Pine Ridge Hills country.

State 19, a continuation of S. Dak. 79 (*see S. D. Tour 14*), crosses the South Dakota Line, 0 *m.*, 43 miles south of Hot Springs, S. Dak.

At 12.9 *m.* State 19 crosses the White River. For several miles south of this point, the highway crosses the SUN DANCE PLAIN, which lies on the east side of the White River just below its junction with Chadron Creek. On this plain was the Sioux and Cheyenne Sun Dance Camp, of which no traces remain. In performing the Dakota Sun Dance, the tortured dancers were compelled to gaze at the sun. When the tribe gathered for the summer buffalo hunt, secret rites took place in a tepee set up in a big circle. Here novices were instructed in the mysteries of the dance. A priest conducted the ceremonies. Regalia was prepared and painted; songs rehearsed; buffalo tongues made ready; poles and brush gathered for the

dance structure. The novice and his companions fasted and gazed at the sun. After several days and nights, the dancers' backs and breasts were pierced through with skewers, attached to thongs tied to the center pole. The dance continued until the dancers tore themselves loose.

Thereafter they were greatly honored because it was believed that through their courage they had obtained favor or atoned for their tribe.

At about 15 *m.* the highway is opposite the SITE OF O'LINN, at the junction of Chadron Creek and the White River. This temporary town was used by settlers waiting for the town of Chadron to be platted, 1884-1885.

At 16.8 *m.* is the west junction with US 20 (*see Tour 7*). Between this point and a junction at 19.4 *m.* State 19 and US 20 are one route (*see Tour 7*).

At 23 *m.* is the SITE OF RED CLOUD'S CAMP (R), where Chief Red Cloud, leader of the Sioux, surrendered to U. S. military forces on October 22, 1876. Chosen by the Indians because it offered shelter and food, the site lies between Chadron Creek and a low ridge of hills. About 2 miles farther south, on Chadron Creek, was the camp of Swift Bear and Red Leaf, close friends of Red Cloud. Both these camps were surprised by the Fifth Cavalry under Major Mackenzie, and the Pawnee Scouts under Maj. Frank North and his brother, Luther North. Both camps were captured at dawn; Red Cloud, knowing that resistance was useless, surrendered before a shot was fired. About 700 ponies, almost all belonging to the Red Cloud and Swift Bear Camps, were captured and never returned to the Indians. This hastened the end of the great Sioux war.

The site of the Red Cloud Camp has been identified by members of the party, including a daughter of Red Cloud.

CHADRON STATE PARK (R), 27.9 *m.* (*open May 1-Oct. 15; cabins; horses by day or hour; pool 10¢, towel 10¢, bathing suit 25¢; playgrounds free*), covers 800 acres of rough upland country—canyon, forest, and meadow—at a mean elevation of about 3,500 feet. It is for the most part heavily wooded, with both coniferous and deciduous trees in more than 50 varieties. The western yellow pine predominates. Wind-carved pines break from the ribbed canyon walls and spread along the ridges. The valley land alternates between tall dense groves and meadows. Many varieties of birds nest here in summer. Wild flowers are numerous, especially the Scotch harebell, and mariposa lily, and the pasqueflower. Frequent outcrops and buttes vary the contour of the land. There are several small spring-fed lakes. Chadron Creek, a branch of the White River, runs diagonally across the park to the north, its course marked by a darker growth of timber.

Chadron, the first Nebraska State park, became public property in 1921. At first it comprised 640 acres. A 160-acre tract was later added by the Park Board, bringing the area to 800 acres. This country was once the scene of bitter warfare by the fierce migratory western tribes against one another and against the whites, and was later a region of feuds, hardly less fierce, between the ranchers and homesteaders who disputed the land of which the Indians had been dispossessed.



CHADRON STATE PARK

The number of visitors registering in a season has varied between 70,000 and 128,000.

In 1933 the Civilian Conservation Corps improved roads and installed a new water system and other conveniences. The natural beauty of the setting has not been impaired by facilities for play and comfort. Among the trees are a number of unobtrusive cabins for rental; under a cliff in a forest clearing is a corral for riding-horses. A spring-fed lake stocked for fishing also affords boating and swimming; other sports provided for are baseball and horseshoe pitching.

Two large pillars of variegated rocks from the Black Hills mark the entrance.

Right from State 19 on the paved 3-mile winding park road, just inside the gateway is the junction with Clayton Trail; R. on the trail which follows the 1.5-mile gorge of THUNDER CANYON, which is shaded by great pine trees. Occasionally the road rises to the top of the ridge giving glimpses of a distant sky line.

On the main park road, a few rods beyond the entrance to the Clayton Trail is the entrance to Sunset Trail.

Right on this trail, which follows a high ridge to MUSHROOM BUTTE, which gives a panorama of unusual rock formations and hills. From the butte a gradual descent leads to a shelter house, where cold drinking water and firewood are available—a good place to rest and eat lunch.

At about 0.5 m. on the paved road is the junction with the Red Cloud Trail.

Right on this short trail of easy grades; it affords views of every type of land within the park. Emerging from timber, it enters a chain of open meadows edged with pine trees. Later it follows the crest of a 100-foot cliff that affords a long view of Chadron Creek Valley and the tablelands to the south. The trail ends at RED CLOUD BUTTE. Here it is planned to raise a memorial to the great Sioux chief of that name, in the region where he attained renown and met final defeat.

Right from the main paved road at the far corner of the park is the junction with Skyline Trail, most rugged of all. This winds through picturesque heights where rocks have been blasted out to make footing, and crosses plateaus that overlook not only most of the park but also Whitney Lake and the far monotonous horizon to the west, broken only by Crow Butte and Trunk Butte (*see Tour 7*). A hundred miles to the northwest are the Black Hills of South Dakota, sometimes appearing as a blue haze but occasionally in sharp relief.

At 46 m. on State 19 the highway crosses the Niobrara River.

At 56.5 m. is a junction with State 87. Between this point and the east junction at 58.7 m., State 19 and 87 are one route.

Left from the east junction to BOX BUTTE, 6 m., a hill whose shape is responsible for its name.

ALLIANCE, 75.2 m. (3,971 alt., 6,669 pop.) (*see Tour 10*), is at the junction with State 2 (*see Tour 10*).

South of Alliance the highway passes the butte and ridge district of western Nebraska in which are such rock formations as Chimney Rock, Courthouse Rock, and Jail Rock (*see Tour 12*).

ANGORA, 97.7 m. (4,266 alt., 70 pop.), near the North Platte River Valley, is still in the sand hills section. The usual reminders of pioneer life, sodhouses and a lone grave, are in the village. There is an agate mine; silica deposits and fossil beds have been found.

At 105.9 m. is the junction with US 26 (*see Tour 12*). For 16 miles State 19 and US 26 are one route (*see Tour 12*).

At 121.2 m. is the junction with US 26 (*see Tour 12*).



POTATO CELLAR

At 129.7 *m.* on State 19 is the junction with a dirt road.

Right on this road to a junction at 1 *m.*; R here to the SITE OF MUD SPRINGS, 17 *m.*, an old stage station, on the Black Hills Trail. Mud Springs was so named because of the nearby buffalo wallows. In 1865 an attack was made on this station by a band of Indians, and the attendants in charge were killed. This section was for a time notorious because of the raids of Doc Middleton, a horse thief.

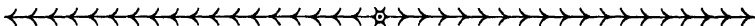
DALTON, 135 *m.* (4,268 alt., 453 pop.), founded in 1902, is supplied with water from the springs once used by trail travelers who paid 50¢ for a tankful.

Right from Dalton on a dirt road to YELLOWSTONE CLIFF, 2 *m.*, rising out of the valley, named for its yellowish sand.

GURLEY, 140.9 *m.* (232 pop.), was founded in 1914 when the C. B. & Q. R. R. section house was moved from Marlo to this point, where State 19 crosses Rush Creek. Buffalo wallows were near the town.

At 153.1 *m.* is the junction with US 30 (*see Tour 8*). Between this point and 154.7 *m.* State 19 and US 30 are united (*see Tour 8*).

At 171.7 *m.* State 19 crosses the Colorado Line, 33 miles north of Sterling, Colo.



Tour 7

(Sioux City, Iowa)—South Sioux City—O'Neill—Valentine—Chadron—Harrison—(Lusk, Wyo.) ; US 20.

Missouri River at South Sioux City to Wyoming Line, 446.8 *m.*

Between South Sioux City and O'Neill, the Burlington Lines parallel this route; between O'Neill and Harrison, the Chicago & North Western Bus service between Page and Crawford.

All-weather road, paved from South Sioux City to 1 m W of Laurel; except in towns the roadbed is bituminous mat and graveled.

Accommodations available in larger towns.

In its gradual rise from the Missouri River westward to Wyoming and northwestward to the Black Hills of South Dakota, US 20 runs through three general types of country.

In the east is typical Nebraska prairie: undulating fields, numerous trees, farms, occasional large towns. In the central part of the route, particularly between O'Neill and Bassett, the land seems to be an almost limitless plateau, devoted to hay farming. There are few trees. Fields are more scattered than farther east. Several towns along the way are busy hay markets in the fall.

Hay towns differ considerably from other small towns, even from farming towns. Most of the hay in this region is stacked in the fields, but some is stored in vast red or white frame barns. Before the barns stand little white bungalow offices, often nothing more than sheds, with scale indicators in the front windows. During the fall, when activity reaches a peak in these towns, yellow and brown farm implements stand on the sidewalk of tool supply companies for customers' inspection. This region is a leading hay producing section.

Farther west US 20 skirts the outlying edges of the sand hills. These grass-covered, treeless hills—like dunes in the desert—have been called everything from "the most fascinating region in the country" to "the most deserted and the dullest." As seen on this tour, the sand hills extend for little more than a third of the entire route. The dunes form wind-blown patterns quite unlike those in any other Nebraska countryside. Large bare and sandy hollows—called "blowouts"—appear between the hills. Occasionally there is a smooth, grassless stretch, having a windmill in the center, with a water tank beside it, circled with hoof prints. The sand hills are a noted recreation center, particularly in Cherry County, where fishing is excellent.

The western end of the route marks the beginning of the mountain region farther west, and of the Bad Lands and Black Hills to the north. Pine trees and buttes abound. Remnants of the frontier linger. The route passes through the region that witnessed the last scenes in the Great Plains Indian wars of 1854-1891.

Section a. MISSOURI RIVER to BASSETT; 180.9 m. US 20

At 0 m. US 20 crosses the Missouri River on a toll bridge (20¢ for car and driver; 5¢ each additional passenger) at the southern limits of Sioux City, Iowa (see *IOWA Tour 12*). This is one of the oldest bridges across the Missouri, and one of the most profitable.

SOUTH SIOUX CITY, 0.7 m. (1,106 alt., 3,927 pop.), a long town whose business places stretch along the main street, is on the Missouri River, just opposite Sioux City, Iowa. High, densely wooded bluffs over-



SANDHILL HAYFLAT

look the river to the east, and rich agricultural lands stretch out from the town in the other direction.

South Sioux City, incorporated in 1889, was named for the Sioux Indians, who had a reservation near the town site. Part of the town was originally known as Harney City—named for General Harney—afterwards known as Newport, then Covington, South Sioux City and Covington consolidated in 1893.

Covington was noted as a tough town and a center of vice, filling up with saloonkeepers and gamblers from Sioux City when prohibition was adopted in Iowa. Gun fights were frequent on the pontoon bridge between Covington and Sioux City, and the river was used to dispose of the bodies of losers. One of the rougher saloons and gambling houses was built on the waterfront and had a chute to the water. "Squawkers" who complained of losing their money were placed in the chute and sent sliding into the river. Many of the old saloon buildings of those days are still standing.

At South Sioux City is the junction with US 73-77 (*see Tour 1*); R. on US 20.

At 13.5 m. is the junction with State 12 (*see Tour 13*).

LAUREL, 40.1 m. (1,473 alt., 864 pop.), is at the junction with State 15, a graveled road.

Left on this road to WAYNE, 17.2 m. (1,455 alt., 2,381 pop.), seat of Wayne County, named for Gen. "Mad Anthony" Wayne.

Wayne, laid out in 1881 when the railroad was being built from St. Paul to Sioux City, has grown steadily, showing marked interest in advanced education from the beginning. In 1888, when the town had a population of only a thousand, a

Lutheran college known as the Wayne Academy was established. This was short-lived; but in 1891 the Wayne Normal School opened. This school was organized by Wayne County citizens who bought a tract of land for \$20,000, divided it into lots, and sold them for \$35 each. Two city blocks were set aside as a campus. The board of trustees made an agreement with the president of the school that if the institution had an attendance of 200 students in 5 years, the property would be deeded to him, which it was.

Wayne College became a STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE by legislative act in 1921. The campus covers 51 acres of rolling ground. Of the original structures, only the art building remains. Seven of the 12 buildings have been erected since 1910. All are of dark pressed brick, trimmed with Bedford stone. NEIHARDT HALL, a girls' dormitory built in 1930, was named for John G. Neihardt, Nebraska's poet laureate, who lived in Wayne while attending the school.

Near the western edge of Wayne is the WAYNE CEMETERY. About 100 feet northeast of the gate is a marker in commemoration of George Heady. When Heady was a boy, he declared he saw a meteor fall south of town, he found it and brought it home amid jeers of townspeople who said he had dug up only an old rock. Heady, however, kept the object until he was taken to an institution for the aged. A friend took charge of it then. Recently it has been converted into a monument to Heady. The stone is ovoid, with a diameter of 17 inches. When an attempt was made to engrave the rock, it was found to be so hard that no impression could be made on it. A granite plate had to be engraved instead, and cemented to the stone.

At 63.2 m. is the junction with US 81 (*see Tour 3*).

OSMOND, 67.1 m. (750 pop.), is a livestock-producing center. Many herds of cattle feed in the vicinity. The amount of land under cultivation is large; the chief crops are corn, oats, and hay.

West of Osmond there are many low hills that give the country the appearance of rolling waves.

ROYAL, 95.1 m. (217 pop.), was first called Savage for a man of that name who promised to pay for the distinction. He failed to pay, and the name was changed.

Right from Royal on an unnumbered dirt road (*impassable in wet weather*), marked by a wooden sign (R), to DIKEMAN PARK, 2.5 m. (*private, cabins rented*).

At the end of a straight drive is a white farmhouse (L), set far back in a dense grove of tall trees. The road to the house passes the large, circular, leaf-covered DIKEMAN FISH PONDS; in the one that contains bullheads (L) fishing is permitted, the other (R) is stocked with bass.

ORCHARD, 101.1 m. (1,945 alt., 505 pop.), surrounded by rolling hills, is a dairy center and has a cooperative creamery.

Left from the west end of Orchard on an unnumbered dirt road to the Antelope County Marker, 2.5 m., a granite shaft about 8 feet square with a cross on top about 4 feet long, marking the HIGHEST POINT IN ANTELOPE COUNTY, from which is a far view in every direction.

O'NEILL, 129.6 m. (1,978 alt., 2,019 pop.), seat of Holt County, was named for Gen. John J. O'Neill, founder of an Irish colony here. O'Neill tried to help as many Irish-Americans as possible to live independently on farms in the West. Born in Ireland, O'Neill fought for the North in the Civil War as a sergeant-major and as a captain of Negro infantry. Later he was colonel and inspector-general in the armed Fenian invasion of Canada. Elected a member of the Fenian senate, he subsequently became president. When President Grant issued a proclamation against Fenian infraction of the neutrality laws, O'Neill was thrown into prison, and the



CATTLE AT SANDHILL LAKE

Fenian raids into Canada ceased. After his release O'Neill came west and founded three colonies. His first settlement was established here May 12, 1874. Later he founded colonies at Atkinson and in Greeley County.

Late in the nineteenth century the town of O'Neill had a reputation for lawlessness, largely because of the Barrett Scott case. Barrett Scott, Holt County treasurer, disappeared in 1892 following rumors that his funds were short. He was finally found in Mexico and brought back to O'Neill to face trial. He was kidnapped while out on bail. Scott's body was found lying near a large stone on the bank of the Niobrara River by the Whiting Bridge. It was wrapped in a comforter, a 6-foot rope around the neck and a heel mark on the bald head. Of 40 masked and armed vigilantes suspected of the crime, 12 were tried but acquitted. Years later an eastern map company, on its map of Nebraska, listed O'Neill as one of the three important cities in the State, largely because of the notoriety of the Scott case.

Lying in the Elkhorn Valley, a thousand feet higher than eastern Nebraska, the town appears to be on a plateau. Weather varies greatly from that in the eastern half of the State, it is generally cooler here, particularly between seasons. Holt County is noted for its bluegrass seed.

O'Neill comes to life on Sunday mornings instead of Saturday nights

By town custom, stores open at 6:30 Sunday morning, so people from the surrounding country, who come in to early mass, may trade.

O'Neill has an EXHIBIT HALL containing a collection of chalk outcroppings of the region. The town is a shipping point for butter, livestock, hay, and grain. There are playgrounds, fairgrounds, and a park where band concerts are given.

O'Neill is at the junction with US 281 (*see Tour 4*).

West of O'Neill the highway passes through the great hay-producing country, which extends as far as Valentine in an almost unbroken stretch of prairie, dotted in the fall with large haystacks.

Extending as far north as Boyd County are small INDIAN MOUNDS scattered over the hilltops. Many of them have been opened and rifled by curio hunters. These mounds are graves of the type called stone cists—boxes made of limestone slabs and placed in shallow excavations. There have been found in them stone maces; flint, arrow, and spear points; sometimes implements and beads made of shells and bones. The older graves antedate the advent of the white man. Other graves, containing glass beads, steel, iron, and brass implements, are of a later period.

ATKINSON, 148.5 *m.* (2,110 alt., 1,144 pop.), named for Col. John Atkinson of Detroit, who owned much land in the vicinity, is spread out like a booming oil town. Houses and barns haphazardly placed in the outlying area are far removed from the main street's stores and business places.

West of Atkinson the country is ideal for dairying, and fine herds are numerous.

NEWPORT, 168.8 *m.* (2,234 alt., 273 pop.), is another hay-shipping town where activity reaches a peak in the fall. Hay is cut, dried, stacked, tied in 100-pound bales, and hauled in large trucks to the railroads. The best hay is grown in dry lake beds.

Built on the north slope of the sand hill region, the town is surrounded by meadows, backed by hills to the west and north.

At 170 *m.* is a junction with a dirt road.

Left on this road to PONY LAKE, 20 *m.*, one of the best fishing spots in this vicinity, except when dry in drouth years

Left from Pony Lake on a dirt road to FISH LAKE, 3 *m.*, and CAMERON LAKE, 7 *m.*

US 20 passes through typical sand hill country between Bassett and Valentine. Transition from the fertile black soil to the sandy region, however, is more apparent west of Brunswick.

The highway, in passing over the sand hills east of Bassett, runs through slightly hilly country. Off the main highways driving can be unpleasant, even troublesome; roads are soft and tortuous. Contrary to the usual result, rain improves the condition of the sandy roads. In this region some are "paved" with hay.

BASSETT, 180.9 *m.* (2,326 alt., 635 pop.), seat of Rock County, lies on a long slope, with the high school and the courthouse above and a group of stores below. A shipping point for wild hay, the town was named for J. W. Bassett, a rancher, who drove the first herd of cattle into



BUFFALO IN GAME REFUGE NEAR VALENTINE

this section in 1871. The town today has the air of a quiet southern village. Its neat yellow, brown, and white houses are set well back on green lawns under tall overhanging trees.

The WHITON HOTEL, a blood-red stucco building on a corner of the sandy main street, is a relic of the days when Bassett was less sedate. Known then as the Martin Hotel, it was frequented by the fast-shooting, hard-riding, hard-drinking Pony Boys, a notorious gang of outlaws led by Kid Wade and David C. (Doc) Middleton, cattle rustler, gambler, ex-convict, and circus performer in Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show. In 1884 vigilantes caught Wade east of Bassett and hanged him. Middleton lived on until 1913, dying in the county jail of Douglas, Wyo., while serving a sentence for bootlegging.

Except for new oak floors, the hotel is much as it was when the Pony Boys came here to celebrate their exploits and shoot up the town. It has the same furnishings, now old and worn. The gray-haired clerk, a spirited pistol-toting youth in the past, is now content with the excitement of a game of solitaire.

Bassett is at the north junction with US 83 (*see Tour 5*).

Section b. BASSETT to WYOMING LINE, 266 m., US 20

South of BASSETT, 0 m., is the south junction with US 83, 2 m.; R. on US 20.

LONG PINE, 10.4 m. (2,403 alt., 937 pop.), was named for nearby Long Pine Creek (*see below*).

Here is the point of change between Central and Rocky Mountain Time.

Left from Long Pine on a graveled road, marked by a wooden pointer, to HIDDEN PARADISE, 1 m., a commercial park and summer resort (*fishing and swimming free; cabins rented, reasonable rates, dance pavilion*). The park lies in a canyon, hence its name.

At 11.2 m. is LONG PINE CREEK (L), deep and narrow, an attractive trout stream. On a tree-covered slope at the foot of PINE CREEK DAM (L) is LONG PINE TOURIST PARK (*cabins, \$1, \$1.50 and \$2; boats, 50¢ an hour; swimming and fishing free*).

At 13.9 m. is the junction with a dirt road.

Right on this road to DEVIL'S GULCH, 14 m., a steep-walled canyon. Here have been found the fossils of such animals as the mastodon and the camel in great numbers. (*Beware of rattlesnakes, especially in hot weather.*)

AINSWORTH, 19.2 m. (2,525 alt., 1,378 pop.), seat of Brown County, was named for Capt. James E. Ainsworth of Missouri Valley, railroad construction engineer. The stores south of the courthouse square, with gray and red fronts weather-beaten and sand-swept, serve a large area of farms to the north and sand hill ranches to the south. On the east side of the courthouse square, near the highway near the eastern end of town, is a log cabin, the AINSWORTH MUSEUM (*adm. free*), with a few old relics.

Ainsworth lies in the valley of Bone Creek—so named because the valley was once strewn with thousands of buffalo and cattle skeletons. To the north are the pine-covered canyons of Plum and Pine Creeks and the Niobrara River—cool, spring-fed streams, with many trout. The chalk bluffs along them have yielded numerous fossils.

1 Left from the main street of Ainsworth to junction with a dirt road, 4.5 m.; R. on this road into LONG LAKE RECREATION GROUNDS (*partly State-owned; fishing free in State grounds; swimming free on part not State-owned*) Long Lake covers 300 acres, and holds bass, perch, and crappies. Other lakes of the group, often dry, especially in drought years, are surrounded by a crisscross network of unmarked trails (*Inquire locally for directions, accommodations, and condition of lakes*) Among the lakes are: HOFELT LAKE, 14 m., 100 acres, yellow catfish

ENDERS LAKE, 30 m., 400 acres; bass, crappies, perch, and bullheads. Fire has destroyed the hotel and dance hall here, 12 cottages house visitors.

SMITH LAKE, 32 m., 200 acres, pickerel and perch.

2. Right from Ainsworth on a dirt road to FOSSIL PARK (*adm. free*), 13 m., situated in a deep canyon adjoining Plum Creek. This region has yielded fossilized bones of camels, rhinoceroses, mammoths, and prehistoric horses

Right 2 m. from Fossil Park on a dirt road to PLUM CREEK POWER DAM, the source of light and power for Ainsworth. It is part of the Interstate Power System. A 50-foot dam on Plum Creek, which is usually a rushing turbulent stream, creates a reservoir holding channel cat and trout (*fishing free*).

West of Ainsworth the countryside is level, sandy, and treeless.

JOHNSTOWN, 29.2 m. (2,604 alt., 229 pop.), appears to have as many windmills as houses. The town site was formerly the homestead of

John Berry, driver of the mail stage to Fort Niobrara, and the settlement was at first named for him. Berry subsequently became the right-of-way man for the railroad as it advanced through this section.

Left from Johnstown on a dirt road to MOON LAKE, 19 m., one of the best of the Brown County Lake Group (*fishing free*). Moon Lake covers 600 acres and is stocked with pike, sunfish, and carp.

West of Johnstown are low hills. The increase in altitude is noticeable here in the cooler air.

At 33 m. is the JOHNSTOWN IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE PARK (*picnic grounds, dance pavilion*), 20 acres in extent. A large TROUT NURSERY is maintained here by the State.

At 36.8 m. the highway crosses the eastern boundary of CHERRY COUNTY, the largest in Nebraska, with an area greater than that of Connecticut, or of Delaware and Rhode Island combined, but sparsely settled, having a population of only 10,898 in 1930.

WOOD LAKE, 39.9 m. (2,690 alt., 293 pop.), lies in a small wooded plot near a water tower on a hill, and is the trade center of a large ranching area.

At 58.7 m. is the junction with US 183, a graveled road.

Left on US 183 to a junction with a dirt road, 2 m.; R. here to SIMEON, about 19.3 m. (50 pop.), a post office established in 1885 at the ranch house of Simeon Morgareidge, close to the CHERRY COUNTY LAKE GROUP, in which there are about 30 lakes, many often dry. Fishing is permitted on all but the few lakes given to the Biological Survey. Almost all are within the CHERRY COUNTY MIGRATORY WATERFOWL SANCTUARY, an area of 70,000 acres, directly on a flyway of migratory fowl.

Protected from the guns of sportsmen, the waterfowl feed and nest here in the wild rice, hedge, and pond weed. The sand-hill region of Cherry County was once a refuge for both wild birds and animals, but almost all animals are gone, except a few muskrats and coyotes. The dry years have greatly reduced the number of wild birds stopping here, though mallards, blue-winged teals, pintails, and baldpates are still plentiful.

Other lakes in the group include the following, with approximate mileage, arranged in order of distance (*inquire locally as to accommodations and conditions of lakes*):

TROUT LAKE (*rooms and meals, filling station*), 6 m., 400 acres.

HACKBERRY LAKE (*filling station*), 6 m., 350 acres.

BIG ALKALI LAKE, 8 m., 800 acres, State-controlled.

BALLARD'S MARSH, 8 m., 600 acres; in BALLARD'S MARSH STATE SHOOTING GROUNDS, 1,583 acres.

PELICAN LAKE (*12 modern cabins, small grocery store, fishing and hunting supplies, boats*), 10 m., 3 miles long; large-mouth bass, perch, crappies, and bullheads; State-controlled.

DEWEY LAKE (*filling station*), 11 m., 450 acres.

WILLOW LAKE, 11 m., 500 acres, in WILLOW LAKE RECREATION GROUNDS.

BEAVER LAKE (*8 cottages, meals, campers' supplies*), 12 m., 450 acres; bass, bullheads, and perch; in RAT AND BEAVER RECREATION GROUNDS.

DAD'S LAKE, 12 m., 4.5 miles long, State-controlled; contains bullheads.

RED DEER LAKE, 15 m., 300 acres; bass, perch, and bullheads.

MARSH LAKE, 16 m., largest in Nebraska, consisting of three lakes with connecting channels.

At 61.1 m. US 20 crosses the Niobrara River on BRYAN BRIDGE, a long, silver-sheened structure, named for Charles W. Bryan, once Governor of



LAKE MINNECHADUZA

Nebraska. The river winds through a wide, steeply walled canyon covered with pines.

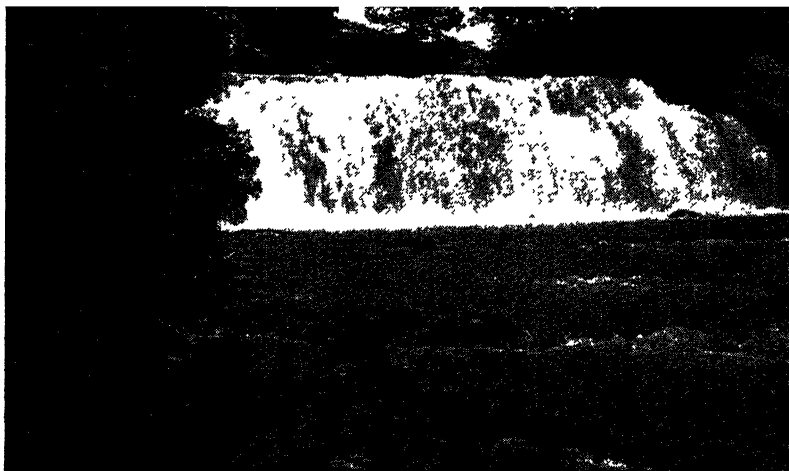
VALENTINE, 64 m. (2,584 alt., 1,672 pop.), seat of Cherry County, is a typical western cow town, with cowpunchers, sportsmen, and weather-beaten stores. Settled in 1882, it was named for E. K. Valentine, a Congressional Representative.

1. Right from the main street of Valentine on a sandy road through the city park arch to LAKE MINNECHADUZA (*adm. free; boating, swimming, and fishing*), 0.5 m. The lake (L) was formed in 1892 when a local flour-milling company dammed the waters of Minnechaduz to furnish power for the mills and to pump water for the city water plant.

Right from Lake Minnechaduz on a winding, hilly, tree-enclosed country road that passes (R) the VALENTINE CITY PARK (*picnicking and camping permitted*) to the STATE FISH HATCHERY (*adm. free; open to visitors 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily*), 1.9 m.

Enclosed by a wire fence, its blue "holding ponds" vivid between green patches of grass, the hatchery provides many of the bass and trout with which the numerous lakes and streams of this region are stocked. Several large ponds near the hatchery office and the road are surrounded by pines. The main hatchery was established in 1912, with only three ponds. It has gradually been enlarged until in 1936 it comprised about 720 acres of land and 55 acres of water, in 39 ponds.

Early in 1932, 400 additional acres were acquired 16 miles south of Valentine, on the head of Schlegel Creek. Here 14 ponds were built, covering almost 48 acres. The Valentine hatchery also controls small ponds on State farm land near here, 12 on the Federal game reserve, 4 miles east of Valentine (*see below*), and 20 nurse



SNAKE FALLS

ponds on the trout streams from O'Neill to Chadron Three kinds of trout (rainbow, brook, and brown), as well as bass, crappies, bullheads, and sunfish, are hatched at Valentine, the number of fingerlings in the pools ranging from 750,000 to 1,000,000.

2 Left from Valentine on a dirt road to a junction at 1 m.; R to a junction with another country road at about 11 m., along this road following the Niobrara River and Snake Creek, to SNAKE FALLS, 25 m., an attractive 25-foot fall, just outside the Niobrara Division of Nebraska National Forest

3 Right from Valentine on State 7 to the NIOBRARA GAME RESERVE, 5 m (*adm. free; 8-2 daily; complete tour of grounds requires more than 4 hrs., guide service until 2 p m daily except Sun.*) This national reserve for the protection of big game animals covers 16,681 acres of rough wooded areas and grassy sand-hill country bordering the Niobrara River. From 1879 to 1906 this land was part of the Niobrara Military Reservation, established to control the Sioux Indians of the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota. In 1908 President Theodore Roosevelt prohibited shooting and trapping in the area Four years later, after a Government survey of the ground, 13,000 acres were set aside by executive order as a protected breeding ground for native birds The same year the Government enlarged the area of the reserve and brought in a small herd of bison, the gift of John W. Gilbert of Friend, Nebr Plans have been made to increase the reserve to 19,800 acres.

The 1937 census of big game animals shows 126 bison, 88 elk, 12 antelope, and 4 white-tailed deer In addition to game birds—grouse, quail, prairie chicken, plover, pheasant—many native songbirds nest in the refuge Ducks of several varieties swim on the ponds during migration Mallard, blue-wing teal, and green-wing teal winter here During the winter the golden eagle and the bald eagle come in from the north Small game animals native to the country are found along the watercourses and in the more heavily wooded areas. Ponds and wells in the drier section provide water for animals and birds

The Niobrara River, flowing turbulently through the northern part of the reserve, has carved out 100-foot banks in the Brule clay Spring-fed creeks enter the river at various points, three of them by waterfalls The country to the north, a rough tableland rising several hundred feet above the valley floor, is cut by canyons and

ravines, bordered with western yellow pine. In the somewhat lower country just south of the river are steep hills wooded with birch, oak, elm, cedar, and pine. Still farther to the south is the arid sandhill region, which under regulated grazing is covered with grasses. Valuable specimens have been gathered from two fossil-bed strata in the reserve.

On the SITE OF OLD FORT NIOBRARA (1879-1905), near the main office building of the reserve, stands a small MUSEUM (*open 8-12, 1-4; adm. free*). It has exhibits of bird, mammal, reptile, and insect life, as well as of fossils found in this area. Visitors to the museum are often greeted by tame deer, which nuzzle the visitor's hands in search of food.

Scenic spots in the reserve include FORT FALLS, 0.5 m. northeast of museum; WONDER FALLS, formerly called Shady Nook, 2.3 m. east of museum, reached by automobile, and SEARS FALLS, about 3 m. east of museum.

West of Valentine US 20 runs through sand-hill country. This region is treeless, sparsely settled, and largely devoted to grazing. The hills are grass-covered, with typical "blowouts" and sandy stretches appearing from time to time. The landscape varies with the season. In early summer hay bottoms are green and uncut; lakes are broad and deep and blue. In the fall yellow hay stacks dot the meadows.

NENZEL, 94.1 m. (3,114 alt., 76 pop.), is little more than a trading post on a hill.

Left from Nenzel on State 97, graveled through an attractive wooded area and sand hills to the PIONEER PRE-EMPTION HOMESTEAD of the historian A. E. Sheldon, 9.5 m., on a pine-covered slope.

POOR'S RANCH, 9.7 m., another early ranch, is on the Niobrara River, at the boundary of the forest reserve.

At 10.9 m. is a boundary of the NIOBRARA DIVISION of the NEBRASKA NATIONAL FOREST (*adm. free; smoking prohibited, cars must have mufflers; picnicking facilities*). Although the larger nurseries are in the Bessey Division (Halsey), the Niobrara Division of the forest exceeds it in extent, having 115,834 acres along the Niobrara River, with 3,290 acres in the planted area. Scattered through the forest are 45 windmills and 8 fire-tool caches, near wells that provide water for fire protection and irrigation. A lookout tower in the western corner of the tract guards a small planting area.

CODY, 101.5 m. (3,100 alt., 408 pop.), named for Thomas Cody, a railroad construction foreman in early days, is a trading post for the Rosebud Indian Agency. With its gray and white frame stores lined up on a single side of its graveled main street, Cody is very like a movie set for a western thriller.

Left from Cody on a country road to BOILING SPRINGS RANCH (*adm. free, no regular visiting hours*), 10 m., one of the famous ranches in the early cattle era. The great BOILING SPRINGS, a few hundred yards east of the ranch buildings, are among the natural wonders of the region.

At 126.1 m. is the junction with a dirt road.

Left on this road to the COTTONWOOD LAKE RECREATION GROUNDS, 0.5 m. (*adm. free*). The 80-acre lake is owned by the State, and stocked with bass, perch, and sunfish.

At 152.5 m. is DANE HILL, one of the steepest of the many hills over which the highway climbs after leaving the plateau country. Near the top of this series of hills, the sand-hills recede to the northeast and south, leaving a hard soil area bounded (L) by the Niobrara River and (R) by South Dakota.

GORDON, 156.7 m. (3,556 alt., 1,958 pop.), has a more prosperous air than many of its neighbors, being a shipping and trading center for people within a radius of 50 miles. Indians from the Sioux Reservation occasionally visit Gordon and walk its streets; they do not wear tribal costumes.

Gordon, which lies just outside the sand-hills area, was named for John Gordon, one of the first settlers who attempted to travel into the Black Hills with a train of wagons when that country was still a part of Indian territory. The Federal Government had forbidden white settlers to enter. Overtaken south of Cody, in Cherry County, Gordon was stopped by a lieutenant in command of a detachment of U.S. cavalry. His oxen were turned loose, his wagons and freight burned, for which the lieutenant was later dismissed from the service. Doc Middleton, a semi-reformed outlaw, ran a temperance bar in Gordon for years after his release from prison.

Left from Gordon on State 27, a sandy road, to the NIOBRARA RIVER, 11.2 m. The old Kearney Trail to the Black Hills crossed the river at the SITE OF THE NEWMAN RANCH, one of the early landmarks of this region, since divided up into several ranches. Newman Ranch was the first place where Jim Dahlman, the celebrated frontiersman who became mayor of Omaha, worked as a cowboy. There are several fresh-water LAKES here (*camping and boating facilities should be provided beforehand; fishing free*). Pine and cedar trees line the banks of the river and tributary creeks. Wild flowers are numerous, as are pheasants, grouse, prairie chickens, quail, and ducks in season.

HOME OF "OLD JULES" SANDOZ, 25 m., is now well known because of Mari Sandoz's spirited biography of her father (*see LITERATURE*).

South of the highway the wide valley of the Niobrara River (L) is visible. To the north the country is rather rough and broken, rising gradually to a tableland dotted with scattered pines and irregular ledges of cap rock.

RUSHVILLE, 171.4 m. (3,741 alt., 1,006 pop.), named for Rush Creek, has been visited by many celebrities, largely because the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota is most easily accessible from this point. Among them were Theodore Roosevelt, Civil Service commissioner at the time of his visit; "Buffalo Bill" Cody; Gen. Nelson A. Miles; John J. Pershing, when a lieutenant in the Sixth Cavalry serving in the Indian war of 1891; Frederic Remington, the artist; and Rex Beach, the author. Calvin Coolidge, while President of the United States, came here to visit Pine Ridge, and was made an honorary chief of the Sioux; one of the most widely circulated pictures of him, that in the big Stetson, was taken nearby.

HAY SPRINGS, 184.6 m. (3,831 alt., 853 pop.), lies in meadow country watered by a number of springs. The SHEFFNER HOME (*private; adm. free*) contains a collection of fossilized bones of prehistoric camels, horses, elephants, and fishes.

The Friendly Festival (*three days in Aug. or Sept.*) is an annual harvest celebration, to which farmers bring their best products for display. Games are provided for children, and carnival concessions occupy the main street.

There are baseball games, concerts, community plays, and exhibitions of fancy-work, flowers, cookery, and 4-H Club work.

A boat race, sponsored by the local American Legion, is held every year in July at Lake Walgren (*see below*).

1. Left from Hay Springs on a graveled road to the WALGREN LAKE STATE RECREATION GROUNDS, 7 m. (*adm. free, camping permitted, one cabin; grocery store*). The lake, partly owned by the State, has been stocked with crappies, sunfish, and bullheads. There is a bathing wharf for swimmers. The lake is illuminated at night.

2. Left from Hay Springs on State 87, graveled, to junction with a dirt road, 13 m.; L. here to the FOSSIL QUARRY, 20 m., by the Niobrara River. The quarry, excavated by the American Museum of Natural History of New York, has produced an abundance of fossils. The gravels from which the bones are taken belong to the Pleistocene age. Among the forms that occur frequently in these deposits are the mammoth and the early horse.

Between Hay Springs and Chadron a distinct change occurs in the character of the countryside. The terrain becomes semimountainous, with yellowish hills and buttes and occasional pine trees.

Pine Ridge (R), a line of long rolling hills, is covered with pine. A few scattered buttes appear, seeming to rise directly from the prairie, their scarred sides almost white under the glare of the sun.

This bare, wild country played a part in one of the most amazing stories of the Old West, the saga of Hugh Glass. In the fall of 1823 Glass set out for the Yellowstone Valley with a party led by Andrew Henry. Traveling up the Missouri and then the Grand, the party had reached what is now the northwestern corner of South Dakota when Glass's great adventure began. One day he was out hunting in advance of the party and suddenly found himself face to face with a huge grizzly bear. Now the grizzly is a formidable animal at any time, as San Francisco gamblers once proved by matching one with a tiger; the tiger was killed within a few seconds. A grizzly with cubs, as in this instance, is doubly formidable and dangerous.

Before Glass could move, the bear had struck him down, pounced upon him and had begun to bite off large chunks of flesh, which she dropped to her cubs. Glass was horribly mangled by the time his screams brought rescue. Unable to carry him and certain that he would die, the party pressed on as winter was approaching. A purse of \$80 was collected and given to two men who were to remain behind to give Glass a decent burial. But Glass did not die, much to the alarm of his nurses. On the fifth day they could stand it no longer and slipped away, taking with them all of the injured man's belongings—his gun, his knife, his flint, everything of use and value—which they turned over to Henry as proof that Glass had died.

Recovering from his delirium and realizing that he had been deserted, Glass was filled with a towering rage and an invincible will to live long enough to take revenge. He lay in the thicket for a time, living on fruits and berries. Still unable to walk, he set out for the nearest post, trying to drag himself the 100 miles to Fort Kiowa on the Missouri. When it seemed that he was too weak from starvation to proceed farther, he had the luck to come upon a pack of coyotes attacking a buffalo calf. Driving



CROW BUTTE

them off, Glass fell upon the calf and ate most of it raw, taking along what remained of it

Glass finally reached Fort Kiowa and there met another party proceeding to the Yellowstone. Notwithstanding his condition, he insisted upon joining it and set out the very day of his arrival. Disaster overtook the party not many days later near the site of the future Bismarck, where the Arikara attacked and killed all but Glass, who was later rescued by the Mandans and carried to Fort Tilton nearby. But he did not remain there even overnight, setting out alone that very day for the Yellowstone post. He arrived 38 days later, only to find that the men who had deserted him had left for Fort Atkinson (near Omaha). Glass immediately turned about to follow them, joining a party of four carrying a report to the fort.

The couriers proceeded up the Powder River and crossed to the North Platte, where they built bullboats of buffalo hides to float down the stream. Along the way they fell in with a band of Arikara whose chief had recently been killed in a skirmish with Henry's trappers. As the Indians seemed to be friendly, the party accompanied them into their tepees, where they were trapped; two were killed.

Again Glass found himself alone as he made his way across northwestern Nebraska toward Fort Kiowa, having nothing but a flint and a knife, but he was not perturbed. "These little fixins," he said later, "make a man feel right pert when he is three or four hundred miles from anybody or anywhere." Living on the new-born buffalo calves he caught on the prairie, he reached Fort Kiowa and promptly started down the river. At long

last, in June 1824, he walked into Fort Atkinson to confront those who had so treacherously left him in his extremity almost a year before. No doubt they thought he was a ghost or a phantom created by a guilty conscience. Although Glass had sworn revenge, his rage had burned itself out during his great hardships, and he was willing to forget and be friends.

At 186 *m.* is the junction with the Beaver Scenic Rd., graveled.

Right on this road, which runs up hill and down for 5 miles and then winds into wild, almost uninhabited country to (L) TULLOSS GROVE (*adm* 5¢), 7 *m.* In the dense growth of trees in the hollow are cabins, a spring, and a golf course

Right from Tulloss Grove, at 11 *m.* is a view of SQUAW TIT, a swelling mound straight ahead through the archway of trees, so named by pioneers

At 15 *m.* is SHERIDAN'S GATE (L), some distance from the road. The buttes were so named because Philip A. Sheridan presumably passed between them on his way to Fort Sheridan.

CHADRON, 205 *m.* (3,371 alt., 4,606 pop.), seat of Dawes County, is at the edge of the White River Valley, with timber-covered Pine Ridge in the background. The town is surrounded by buttes and canyons. Both the soil and climate of this region are favorable for stock raising; corn and small grains make up the bulk of the crops. Chadron has many good houses, and in general appearance is a typical western college town.

The town was named for a French-Indian "squaw man" (Chardon), who lived and trapped in this region. In 1884-1885, while waiting for the new town to be platted, the settlers of Chadron lived in O'Linn (*see above*), 6 miles west of this place, upon one of the Sun Dance grounds of the Sioux (*see Tour 6*).

Like most frontier towns, this one was wild and rough in its early years when Dawes County was cattle country, and cowboys frequently came into town to shoot up the saloons. In 1893, the year of the World's Fair in Chicago, Chadron was much in the news because of the 1,000-Mile Horse Race from Chadron to Chicago, promoted by a publicity-minded newspaperman in Chadron. Nine riders competed for the first prize of \$1,000. Doc Middleton, former outlaw, was among the competitors. The race was started by the Chadron police chief at 5 30 p m, June 13, 1893. The Humane Society, which had attempted to stop the race, kept an eye on the horses all the way across Nebraska, Iowa, and Illinois. John Berry was first to reach the goal, the entrance to Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, completing the ride in 13 days and 16 hours.

Chadron is divisional headquarters of the Black Hills and the Wyoming division of the Chicago & North Western Ry., which has general shops, warehouses, and storage yards here. Industrial activities here include flour milling, oil refining, and the manufacture of dairy products. Great quantities of seed potatoes, grown in the surrounding territory, are shipped from here to southern growers. Seed alfalfa is a leading crop.

The NEBRASKA STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE, at the southern edge of town, celebrated its silver jubilee in 1937. One of the last State normal schools established in Nebraska, its enrollment has increased rapidly. The school has seven modern brick buildings; the gymnasium is finished in

marble and oak, and contains a well-equipped banquet room and a swimming pool.

Nearly two-fifths of the campus of 213 acres is covered with buttes and canyons. Extending across its southern end, pine-clad Pine Ridge forms a picturesque background for the buildings.

Right from Chadron to the SITES OF THE OLD WHETSTONE AGENCY and THE SPOTTED TAIL AGENCY, 15 m., which figured prominently in the frontier history of this area. The former, established on the White River at the mouth of Beaver Creek, a point 15 miles northeast of Chadron, was moved here in 1871. Later it became the headquarters of Chief Spotted Tail and his band.

Just west of Chadron is the junction with State 19 (*see Tour 6*).

At 208 m. there is a large natural formation (L) whose shape suggested its name, TRUNK BUTTE.

WHITNEY, 2188 m. (3,411 alt., 177 pop.), first called Dawes City, then Earth Lodge, was given its present name in honor of Peter Whitney, town site agent for the railroad. It lies on the route of the old stage trail between Valentine and Fort Robinson.

1. Right from Whitney on a dirt road to WHITNEY LAKE (*adm free*), 3 m., a body of water created for irrigation purposes but also used for fishing.

2. Left from Whitney on a country road to the SITE OF OLD FORT USELESS, 9 m., now on a ranch. It was built for protection against Indians but never occupied.

At 228 m. (L) is a landmark known as the BLACK HILLS TREATY TREE. The monument, made of fossil trees, stands on the approximate site of the tree under which was held the abortive Council of 1875, when an attempt was made to force the Indians to sell the Black Hills.

At 229 m. CROW BUTTE stands (L) apart from Pine Ridge, its straight high walls visible for many miles. According to legend, a band of Crow Indians, hard pushed by a Sioux war party, was forced to retreat to the top of this butte for protection. The Sioux placed their guards on all trails leading to the summit, and patiently waited for the Crow to come down and surrender. But the leader of the Crow band conceived the idea of tying blankets together to make a rope. All the young warriors escaped down the perpendicular north wall of the butte, 100 feet high. The old men among the Crow, to prevent any suspicion on the part of the Sioux, sang and danced all night on top of the butte. No one knows how long the Sioux kept up their vigil before they discovered they were besieging just a few old men. But legend does have it that the old men were not killed, for the Sioux noted what they took to be a spiritual message in the form of white clouds floating over the top of the butte, and later they made a lasting peace with the Crow.

At 230 m. US 20 meets a dirt road.

Left on this road to the RIM OF THE WORLD DRIVE (*inquire at one of filling stations*) Not marked on maps, this rough, sandy road cannot be followed unless the traveler is acquainted with the country or has a guide. At 9 m., the highest point on Pine Ridge is reached. For 10 miles the road is in the heart of the butte country, for the remaining 22 miles it is over farming and grazing land. The landscape along the route is extremely varied.

At 32 *m.* is the junction with State 19 (*see Tour 6*).

CRAWFORD, 230.5 *m.* (3,673 alt., 1,703 pop.), is on White River, in a valley between two ranges of Pine Ridge. Rolling country falls away to the south. The rough land along the ridge is excellent for grazing. Irrigation ditches from the White River furnish a water supply for the town and for irrigating farms.

Crawford was founded in 1885 and named for Lt. Emmet Crawford of Fort Robinson. A frontier boom town, Crawford grew from a settlement with one tent and part of a frame building to a village of 200 inhabitants within a few days. Its first settlers were typical frontier people—carpenters, blacksmiths, day laborers, hunters, freighters, cattlemen, land agents, gamblers, lewd women, Negroes, and Indians. During the period of its settlement it was a wide-open town, with a flourishing red-light district. Calamity Jane lived in a tent here for a short time. When Indians from South Dakota come to town today, they are greeted with signs in taverns: "No beer sold to Indians or minors."

THE CITY PARK (*swimming pool; golf links; race tracks; picnic facilities*) came into the hands of the town in 1906, a grant from the Federal Government of a part of the Fort Robinson Military Reservation. On the entrance gate is a tablet dedicated to Moses P. Kinkaid, Nebraska Congressman, who fathered a Homestead Act (*see HISTORY*). Inside the park is a monument commemorating the Black Hills Treaty.

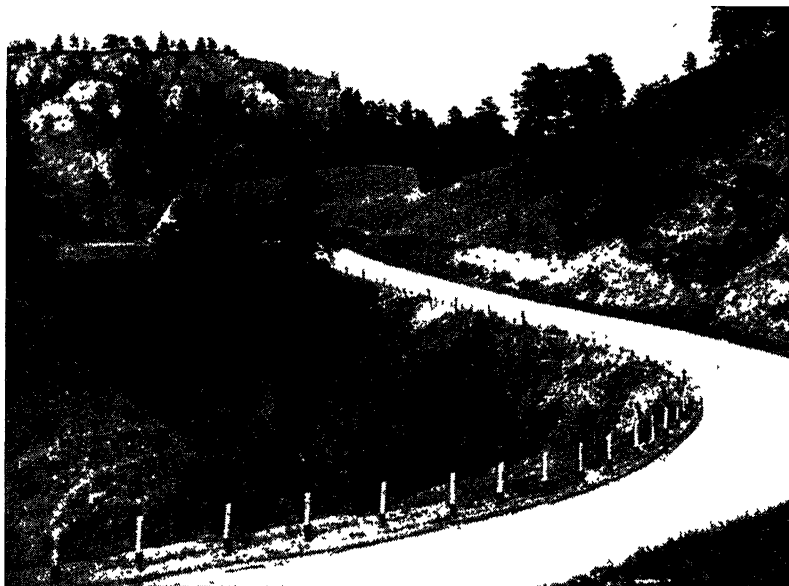
At 232 *m.* is SADDLE BUTTE (R), an irregularly shaped formation.

At 233 *m.* is the SITE OF RED CLOUD AGENCY (L), on the Fort Robinson Military Reservation. For years this was the headquarters of Chief Red Cloud, head of the Ogalalla Sioux. Here the Black Hills Treaty of 1876, which ceded the Black Hills territory to the whites, was signed. This treaty, the legality of which was seriously questioned, followed the Battle of the Little Big Horn in which General Custer and his command were annihilated by the Sioux under Crazy Horse.

Near this point (R) is GIANT'S COFFIN or RED CLOUD BUTTE.

FORT ROBINSON, 233.9 *m.* (3,784 alt., 175 pop.), is one of the three Army posts in Nebraska still maintained for military purposes, serving as an important remount service unit. Lying in the northeastern corner of the Fort Robinson Military Reservation, which covers 36,000 acres along the White River in Dawes and Sioux counties, Fort Robinson has a most dramatic setting. It is cupped in a deep valley of Pine Ridge and flanked by high ridges and plateaus. Behind it a wall of castle-like cliffs rises sheerly to 1,000 feet.

Fort Robinson was established near the Red Cloud Agency in the heart of the Sioux country in the spring of 1874, immediately preceding the last great Indian uprising in the history of the West. Made desperate by the loss of the prairies, the wanton slaughter of buffalo, by innocent and deliberate violations of ambiguous treaties, the Great Plains tribes—Sioux, Arapaho, Cheyenne, and Kiowa—took counsel and determined on armed resistance. At the council fires sat Crow King, Big Foot, Hump, Touch-the-Cloud, Crazy Horse, Rain-in-the-Face, Sitting Bull, Spotted Tail, and



SMILEY CANYON

Red Cloud. Foreseeing the destruction of their people, Spotted Tail and Red Cloud would have submitted to the terms of the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868. But the demands made upon them were unreasonable, for too many whites subscribed to the principle that the only good Indians were dead ones.

For five years Fort Robinson was a scene of excitement. The battles of Powder River, Tongue River, Slim Buttes, the Rosebud, Custer's disaster at the Little Big Horn, Mackenzie's clash with the Cheyenne near Crazy Woman's Fork, and Miles' at Wolf Mountain had repercussions at the fort. But in the end the chiefs, one by one, led in their people, convinced that the buffalo would not last through another snow. Crazy Horse, who was the first to break Custer's line at the Little Big Horn, was last to come in and was stabbed to death here in the guardhouse.

In the old post CEMETERY lie soldiers, civilians, and Indians of the wars, among them California Joe, Custer's favorite guide, and Little Bat (Baptiste Garnier), scout and big-game hunter.

Today, as a unit of the Army Remount Service, the fort raises fine horses and mules on its wide fenced pastures. The depot accommodates 7,200 animals, representing an investment of \$3,000,000.

The fort has a modern dairy, swine herd, poultry flock, and truck garden. A number of fish ponds belonging to the Federal hatchery at Crawford dot the area. The Civilian Conservation Corps renovated building

and grounds, conditioned the wood and timber reservation, built dams, and completed a system of erosion control.

From Fort Robinson US 20 ascends SMILEY CANYON to the top of Pine Ridge. Following the ridge for a few miles (*winding road, proceed cautiously*), it runs almost due west to Harrison, lying on a high and rather flat tableland.

HARRISON, 257 m. (4,857 alt., 480 pop.), was named for President Benjamin Harrison. At the northern end of the graveled main street, a block or two off the highway, is the SIOUX COUNTY COURTHOUSE, a gray stone building. Facing it is the red and white brick building of the SIOUX COUNTY CONSOLIDATED HIGH SCHOOL. There are many vacant buildings, their fronts plastered with posters, along the wind-blown street. The general store, with its hitching rail, is a frame wooden building of weather-beaten gray. Harrison is a ranch center, with stockyards along the graveled road that forms the southern boundary of the town

1. Right from Harrison on a country road to a fork at 3 m.

a. Right from this fork into SOWBELLY CANYON On one occasion a number of soldiers on scout duty from Fort Robinson were besieged here by Indians for several days, and nearly starved before help arrived. The only food their rescuers had to offer was dry salt bacon—in Plains language, sowbelly—hence the name

Right 4 m. from Sowbelly Canyon to MONROE CANYON, in a forested region containing many buttes

b. Left from the fork to the SITE OF THE BATTLE OF WARBONNET CREEK, 12 m. In 1876 some 800 Cheyenne from the Red Cloud Agency fled the agency and headed northward. The Fifth Cavalry, with Buffalo Bill as chief scout, went in pursuit and met them on Warbonnet Creek. The Fifth Cavalry swept into action, and soon forced the Indians to retreat to the agency. Here, so runs the story, William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody fought a duel with Yellow Hand, a Cheyenne warrior. Killing his opponent, Cody lifted the red man's warbonnet and scalped him. "The first scalp for Custer!" he is said to have shouted.

2. Left from Harrison on State 29 to the AGATE SPRINGS FOSSIL QUARRIES, 23 m., rich in prehistoric remains, on the Niobrara River near the western border of Nebraska. Here the river has eroded the high Box Butte Plateau to a depth of 400 feet and exposed a rich deposit of Miocene fossils.

The quarries and the adjoining COOK MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, which houses many of the finds, are on the Capt. James H. Cook ranch, a tract of cattle land extending 10 miles on both sides of the river. Picnicking is permitted on the bluegrass lawns in the shade of cottonwoods.

The presence of fossils in northwestern Nebraska was long ago reported by trappers who brought in bones and teeth found along the streams. Leidy, in his *Ancient Fauna of Nebraska*, drew the attention of the scientific world to the area as early as 1850. Captain Cook's interest in the region was aroused when he came as a cattleman to Sioux County in 1878. From Chief Red Cloud he heard tales of "stone bones" out in the tablelands. According to one story, a group of Indians threatened with slow starvation were granted speedy release by the Great Spirit through the arrival of a "thunder-horse" that killed them all. To substantiate this story, Red Cloud produced an agatized molar 4 inches in diameter. The tooth was later identified as that of a titanothere, a large animal related to the horse and rhinoceros families, which lived about 30 million years ago.

Later Captain Cook discovered the present fossil quarries while on a trip from Fort Robinson to Fort Laramie, and eventually he settled near them.

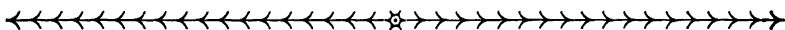
In recent years, the Agate Springs quarries have been worked by several expeditions. The first was sent out in 1904 by the Carnegie Museum. The chief quarries are on Carnegie Hill (Nebraska), University Hill, Bear Dog Hill, and at Amherst Point. These hills and buttes have been cut by erosion, revealing the fossil deposits in a layer of rock, averaging about a foot in thickness, which extends through the

hills 60 feet below the silicified limestone layer capping the hills. It represents what was once a layer of mud, in which many animals were embedded while the valley was building up eons ago. As the mud and its contents solidified, many fossils underwent curious changes. Hollow bones and skulls are occasionally found filled with beautiful, transparent calcite crystals.

The task of excavation, after the rock above the fossil beds has been blasted out and picked away, is difficult and exacting. Fine awls, brushes, hardening solutions, plaster, bandages, and splints, all used with great patience, are required to remove the bones and get them to the laboratory unharmed, to be assembled there by an expert paleontologist.

The most abundant fossil remains are those of a small two-horned rhinoceros. Interesting and infrequent finds include specimens of the *dinohyus*, a giant hog, and the queer claw-footed *moropus*, which resembled both the ancestral horse and rhinoceros. Specimens have also been found of prehistoric camels, alligators, hawks, oreodonts—odd little animals without modern counterparts—and several types of carnivores. A few specimens are housed at the adjoining museum. Fossils have been sent to museums at Yale, Princeton, the American Museum of Natural History in New York, the Carnegie Museum at Pittsburgh, and others. Some of the finest specimens are on display in Morrill Hall at the University of Nebraska.

At 266 m. US 20 crosses the Wyoming Line, 23 miles east of Lusk, Wyo. (see *WYOMING, Tour 6A*).



Tour 8

(Missouri Valley, Iowa)—Fremont—Grand Island—Kearney—North Platte—Sidney—(Cheyenne, Wyo.) ; US 30

Missouri River to Wyoming Line, 447.7 m.

Union Pacific R.R. and United Air Lines parallel route throughout.

Between Fremont and Wyoming Line, Union Pacific busses, Chicago and North Western busses, Interstate Transit Lines, and Burlington Trailways follow this route. Accommodations available at short intervals, hotels chiefly in cities.

Concrete paving between Iowa Line and Ogallala except for a few short graveled or oiled gravel stretches; oiled between Ogallala and Wyoming Line, few curves and no steep hills or hazardous railroad crossings.

US 30 is the chief east-west road across Nebraska; it is also the most interesting historically.

For two-thirds of its way it closely follows the Mormon Trail and for one-third roughly parallels the Oregon Trail, which, west of Grand Island, ran along the south bank of the river.

For the most part the Oregon Trail was merely a broad course whose direction was determined by topography and by supply stations. Emigrants crossed the Missouri River in a dozen different places and headed toward Grand Island. The oldest approach, that from Independence, Mo., entered what is now the State of Nebraska near the boundary of Gage and Jeffer-

son Counties. At the Fork of the Plattes most early travelers turned northwest and followed the North Platte to Fort Laramie, for many years the most important supply point and information bureau between the Missouri and Oregon Territory.

The pioneer roads bore various names through the decades, according to the goals and types of emigrants. The Mormons were not the first to use the north bank of the Platte; they were merely the first large organized group to travel along it. After 1848 both the Mormon and Oregon trails were sometimes called the California Trail; after Ben Holladay's stage line was in operation parts of the Oregon Trail were called the Overland.

The history of the old trails in Nebraska has four phases. The first was the period of trail blazing, which began in 1813, when the eastbound Astorians came down the Platte; the second, the period of major Oregon migration, which began in 1841; the third, the period of the California gold rush; and the fourth, the period of western settlement, when this road was "the greatest traveled highway in the world, wider and more beaten than a city street, with hundreds of thousands of people passing over it."

When in 1846 the Mormons were driven out of Nauvoo, Ill., Brigham Young led them across Iowa to the banks of the Missouri. He was convinced that it was useless for his followers to attempt to build up a community in the settled East and, influenced by Frémont's reports on the country beyond the Continental Divide, he prepared to lead the Mormons, as he said, "out of the United States." The advance groups settled first on the east bank of the river, in what is now Council Bluffs, but Young soon transferred the majority to the west bank, making a camp, called Winter Quarters, in what is now a suburb of Omaha. Early in the spring of 1847 Young selected a group of 146 people, who called themselves the Mormon Pioneers, to travel in advance with him to find the Promised Land. This band followed the north bank of the Platte, roughly the route of US 30, in part to avoid meeting possible enemies using the Oregon Trail. For a decade and a half the route selected and marked by Brigham Young was used annually by Mormon travelers. It ran well back from the bank of the Platte to avoid sandy swampy ground, led to the mouth of the Loup River, near the present Columbus in Platte County, continued up the north bank of the Loup to a point near the present Palmer, then crossed the Loup and proceeded south, reaching the Platte at about the point where Wood River now is.

Later, the crossing near Palmer was abandoned in favor of a ford some two miles east of the present Fullerton, which brought the emigrants to the Platte some distance east of Grand Island. From there they wandered along the Wood River Valley. For about 40 miles they found firm level ground but a little west of the present Gothenburg the trail ran over some hills and through swamps and sand.

Because the road laid out by the Mormons was shorter than the Oregon Trail, and had better grass and water for much of the way, it carried a large part of the traffic to the gold fields during the years following 1848.

The first wagon trains of the Salt Lake Express crept over the trail in 1858. The following year these lumbering vehicles made way for the

swifter coaches of the line that became famous after 1862 under the management of Ben Holladay, who provided transportation between St. Joseph and Sacramento. For 18 months, in 1860-61, until the transcontinental telegraph was completed, the spectacular relay race of the Pony Express was run on the Oregon Trail.

After 1868 the Overland stages were superseded in Nebraska by the jerry-built coaches of the new Union Pacific Railroad, but the back country was served by stages until about 1900.

Today in Nebraska only a few ruts remain, some of them outlined in summer by wavering lines of yellow sunflowers, to mark the trails worn by the countless wagon trains.

Scenically, US 30 runs through one general type of country—prairie—and there is little if any contrast between the undulating hills of eastern Nebraska and the flat land of the central and western sections, although there is a slow steady rise towards the West. The highway touches the edge of the sand hills west of Gothenburg.

Section a. MISSOURI RIVER to KEARNEY, 178.1 m. US 30

At 0 m. US 30 crosses the Missouri River on the Abraham Lincoln Memorial Bridge (*car and driver 50¢, passengers 5¢ each*), 11 miles west of Missouri Valley, Iowa (*see IOWA, Tour 13*). Up the "Big Muddy," useless for modern navigation, went Manuel Lisa, Andrew Henry, the Lewis and Clark party, the Astorians, and most of the other men known in early western history.

BLAIR, 2.6 m. (1,122 alt., 2,791 pop.), seat of Washington County, is about 80 feet above the Missouri River on the second table of a plateau, with hills on the north and south.

Blair was founded in 1869, and during that year the county seat was moved here from Fort Calhoun. The town was named in honor of John I. Blair, who built the first railroad through the county. In 1864 Blair and his associates became owners of the franchises of the Sioux City and Pacific R.R. Company. They were voted \$75,000 in county bonds and at once began construction through Washington County. The building of the road determined the site of this town.

Although there are some small industries here, this is primarily a trade center. The BLAIR CANNING FACTORY, at the eastern edge of town, contracts with the neighboring farmers to plant corn for delivery in the fall at current prices. The HALLER PROPRIETARY COMPANY PLANT, on West Nebraska St., compounds a variety of medicines and extracts, and manufactures the Porter Incubator, the invention of a Blair resident.

Christ Bearing the Cross, an oil brought from Germany in 1880, hangs in a vault in the COURTHOUSE; the name of the artist is unknown.

The first settlers here were Scandinavians. Today the majority of the population is of Danish descent, and most of the rest is of German, Swedish, or Norwegian. The DANISH LUTHERAN PUBLISHING HOUSE, at Front and 5th Sts., is owned and operated by the United Danish Evangelical Church. It prints all the Sunday school and church literature for this synod.

Right from Blair on West St., graveled, to DANA COLLEGE, 0.5 m., housed in three red-brick buildings on the side of a hill. The college was established in 1884 as Trinity Seminary for the training of students for the ministry in the Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church. It still functions in this capacity but has broadened its courses to cover a four-year liberal arts course, granting the bachelor of arts degree. The college is coeducational and has an average enrollment of 225.

At 3 m. is a boulder marking the SITE OF THE FIRST SCHOOLHOUSE in the district, which was built in 1866. The inscription on the boulder says that it is also a marker on "the Old Territorial Military Trail Between Omaha and Decatur, Established by the Government in 1855."

In ARLINGTON, 17.7 m. (1,162 alt., 622 pop.), is the W. E. ANTRIM GARDEN (*open; free*), in which is a maze of canals with wind- and water-powered mechanical contrivances, built by the owner "to pass the time." In the garden is a model of a feudal castle with moat and draw-bridge and a collection of unusual bottles.

FREMONT, 25.4 m. (1,195 alt., 11,407 pop.) (*see FREMONT*).

Points of Interest. Midland College, First Congregational Church, Western Theological Seminary, Lutheran Orphans' Home, and others

Fremont is at the junction with US 77 (*see Tour 2*).

At 29.4 m. (L) are the FREMONT STATE RECREATION GROUNDS (*adm. free; camping facilities; fishing permitted 4 a.m. to 10 p.m.*). Here are 15 sand-pit lakes stocked with bass, crappies, sunfish, catfish, and bullheads. Signs by the pits tell the varieties of fish in each, and the permissible limits of the catch. Nearby are many trees.

At 31.2 m. a Mormon-Overland Trail marker (R) indicates the SITE OF LINCOLN, a town that existed from 1856 to 1868. First named Albion, for the Albion Ranch or Albion Hotel that was here, the settlement became Lincoln when the post office was established. But two and a half years later the name was changed to Timberville because of Timberville Lake, where travelers stopped for water. The town disappeared after the development of Ames began.

Tall trees here line one side (R) of the highway for a mile.

NORTH BEND, 40.2 m. (1,275 alt., 1,108 pop.), was settled on July 4, 1856, by several Scottish families from Illinois.

Left from North Bend on graveled State 79, to the Platte River, 1 m., from which point INDIAN PEAK, the largest in a small range, is visible (R). An incident of early days suggested the name. An Indian chief and his band had come from Council Bluffs to Turton's Island, now known as Bobkies' Island, to trap beaver. They were caught in a blizzard, and the chief's son contracted pneumonia and died. He was carried 3 miles southwest to what is now known as Indian Peak, where he was buried on top of the hill. In the spring the Indians returned and took the body back to Council Bluffs where they reburied it. For several years thereafter the Indians brought bowls of water and crackers to Indian Peak to feed the spirit of the departed.

SCHUYLER, 55.2 m. (1,350 alt., 2,588 pop.), seat of Colfax County, was named, as was the county, for Schuyler Colfax, Vice President of the United States in 1869 when the town was platted. In the same year it became the county seat. The COMMERCIAL HOTEL was built by H. P. Upton



HARVESTING POTATOES

in 1868. Schuyler was the first point on the Union Pacific from which Texas cattle were shipped.

Situated in the level farming country of the Platte River Valley, this is a trade center. The population of 1930 was only about 400 greater than the population of 1900. Many of the inhabitants are Irish or Bohemian by birth.

In this vicinity in the 1860's, according to one emigrant, three or four Indians on ponies suddenly "appeared riding towards us waving their arms and shouting. We slowed down our teams, but kept moving slowly and commenced to get our guns ready in case this really meant war. It was the first time either of us had ever met an Indian on his own hunting grounds and to say we were frightened is to put it mildly. There was no house in sight. There was no line of retreat. The Platte river cut us off to the east and south and there was nothing to shelter us anywhere, only the plains and the prairie grass to cover us. As they came within speaking distance we could hear that they were yelling, 'Taboch, taboch!' In short, they were perfectly harmless and were only begging for chewing tobacco. We shook our head. 'No chew taboch!' And they turned as quickly as they had come. 'Heap dam lie' was the limit of their parting salute. As we drove into the wilderness of grass and plain, a few miles farther on we saw a small patch of white clover growing among the wild grasses alongside the trail."

At 66.8 m. is the canal for the Loup River Project (*see below*), which carries water from the Diversion Dam (*see Tour 3*) under the creeks and the railroads in concrete siphons to the Columbus powerhouse.

At 68.8 m. is a junction with a country road.

Right on this road to the COLUMBUS POWERHOUSE of the Loup River Project (*see below*), 18 m., where three turbines under a 112-foot head of water develop 39,900 kilowatts at 13,800 volts

COLUMBUS, 73 m. (1,447 alt., 6,898 pop.), seat of Platte County,

was founded in 1856 by a group from Columbus, Ohio. The town, settled 10 years before the Union Pacific R.R. reached this point, developed as a supply point on the trail, and many large caravans made it a stopping point on the way West. Ezra Meeker in 1852 passed through Columbus and crossed the Loup River at this point. This was the home of two men prominent in Nebraska Indian-war history—Maj. Frank North and Capt. Luther North. Part of the population is of German, Swiss, or Polish extraction.

Most of the 26 industries here are typical of those in midwestern towns of this area. A WOODEN-SOLE SHOE FACTORY, 2207 11th St., manufactures foot-wear for use in packing houses, foundries, and steel mills. The Nebraska Continental Telephone Company has its headquarters here. At the LIVESTOCK SALES PAVILION, western side of town, a sale is conducted every Saturday, starting at 1.00 p.m. and often lasting until midnight. The building seats 1,000.

The town, lying along the Loup River near its confluence with the Platte, is the headquarters of the huge LOUP RIVER PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT PROJECT, first called the Columbus-Genoa Project. In 1936 the State's three major power and irrigation projects were coordinated into what has been called "the Little TVA," which extends for 200 miles across central Nebraska. The Loup River Project covers the lower valley of the Loup in Nance and Platte Counties. Its program includes only power development, to augment the supply system of Columbus, Fremont, Norfolk, Lincoln, Omaha, Sioux City, and other towns. A 35-mile canal, supplied by a diversion dam at Genoa (*see Tour 3*), is tapped at the Columbus Power House (*see above*) and the Monroe Power House (*see Tour 3*).

Columbus is at the junction with US 81 (*see Tour 3*).

DUNCAN, 81.1 m. (1,495 alt., 241 pop.), was laid out in October 1871.

Left from Duncan on a graveled, marked road to the KUENZLI MUSEUM, 2.5 m. (*adm. 15¢, children 10¢; open 7-6*), owned by Dr. Frank Kuenzli and his son Lindo. Dr. Kuenzli, a Swiss, came to America with his father in 1879 and studied to become a veterinarian. While still a child he developed a passion for making collections. In the museum are hundreds of curious articles from all parts of the world: reptiles, octopi, Australian birds and butterflies, pioneer and Indian relics, and military equipment. Free lectures and discussions of the collections are given daily, sometimes several times a day if the number of visitors warrants it. On Sundays the lectures are often continuous.

CLARKS, 102.8 m. (1,623 alt., 540 pop.), was named for Silas Clark, a Union Pacific R.R. official. The town's first white settler, who came in 1867, found the Pawnee quite friendly.

At 105.5 m. on US 30 is junction with State 16, which crosses the Platte.

Left on this graveled road to the DEXTER FARM, 2 m., on which is the SITE OF THE GRAND PAWNEE HUNTING AND BURIAL GROUNDS, as well as the SITE OF A PAWNEE VILLAGE. A second village site lies southwest on the farm. A hundred years ago the course of the Platte River was a mile farther south than it now is, and it was on this old riverbank that the two villages stood. Neither village has been



LONE TREE MONUMENT

excavated or investigated to any great extent; both are on tilled land. Along the edges of the ditches the charred remains of house poles and posts are imbedded in the soil. Burnt clay and charcoal are also present. The sites have been visited by many curio hunters, who have carried away arrowheads, hoes, axes, pipes, tomahawks, and flintlock muskets.

CENTRAL CITY, 114.1 *m.* (1,699 alt., 2,474 pop.), is a busy community served by two railroads. Years ago this section was a wide tract of rolling prairie with little vegetation and few trees, except for a lone giant cottonwood on the south bank that served as a landmark for travelers. In 1858 the Lone Tree Ranch was established nearby and it in time became one of the "20-mile stopping places" for the Overland stagecoach on its weekly trips. When the Union Pacific R.R. was built along the north bank of the river the station established here was named Lone Tree, and in a

short time three stores, six houses, and a tavern had been built. When the town site was platted Lone Tree became Central City.

At 114.7 *m.* on US 30 is a junction with a dirt road.

Left on this River Road to the LONE TREE MONUMENT (L), 3 *m.*, on the site of the old landmark, which was killed by the carving of names on its bark. The stone monument, about 10 feet tall, resembles the trunk of a tree. When the trunk was blown down in 1865, part of it was taken to the railroad station and placed on the platform, where it became the prey of tourists. The banks of the Platte River are now well wooded.

LOCKWOOD, 130 *m.*, is merely a railroad flag station indicated by a marker alongside the right-of-way.

Left from Lockwood on a graveled road to a junction at 07 *m.*, L here to the WILLIAM JOHNSON FARM (*visitors welcome*), 1.2 *m.* Early in January 1868, when the Loup River was frozen solid and snow covered parts of the stream, a party of hunters set out to hunt deer and elk. They were John Vieregg and Hans Klingenberg, who were accompanied by two boys, Christian Gottsch and Christian Tramm (Frauen). The second day, the men went off alone, leaving the boys in charge of the team and supplies. When the men returned, they found that the boys had been killed, presumably by Indians, and that the team, blankets, robes, and other supplies had disappeared. The boys' graves are on the farm.

GRAND ISLAND, 136 *m.* (1,864 alt., 18,041 pop.) (*see GRAND ISLAND*).

Points of Interest: Catholic Cathedral, American Crystal Sugar Company, Pioneer Park, Memorial Park, Burnett Park, St. Francis Hospital, Grand Island Airport, and others.

Grand Island is at the junction with US 281 (*see Tour 4*) and State 2 (*see Tour 10*).

US 30 follows Second St. through the city.

At 151 *m.* is the junction with a country road.

Right on this road to the HOWE FARM, 1 *m.*; R on private dirt road leading across a field to an elm tree on the banks of Wood River, 2 *m.* The Smith and Anderson families came to the neighborhood in January 1862. One morning Smith, his sons, and the Anderson boy started to the Platte to fell trees for the construction of cabins. At noon, when Anderson came with a wagon to meet them, he found Smith's wagon here among the willows. The men and horses were gone. In the shallow water near the bank of the river lay the bodies of the four Anderson's son was face downward in the sand, his body filled with arrows, while a few feet away was Smith, grasping the hands of his two boys. Presumably, Sioux had killed them.

When WOOD RIVER, 151.6 *m.* (1,967 alt., 751 pop.), was laid out in 1874 by the Union Pacific R.R., it had been a thriving community for two or three years. A. A. Baker, a Canadian, built the first general store. The moving of the railroad station resulted in the moving of the town. The old town site is now occupied by the WOOD RIVER CATHOLIC CEMETERY.

SHELTON, 159 *m.* (927 pop.), grew from a settlement known as Wood River Center that stood several miles east of the present town. A group of English converts to Mormonism, led by Edward Oliver, was traveling to Salt Lake City when a broken axle forced the party to camp and attempt to repair the break. It was irreparably damaged, however, and

Mrs. Oliver persuaded her husband to turn back. The Olivers spent the winter in a log hut on the banks of Wood River, about a mile west of the present town and decided to settle here; Oliver built a store. When a town was later established here, it absorbed the old settlement and was named Shelton in honor of Nathaniel Shelton, another pioneer.

A garage is on the SITE OF A LOG STOCKADE, erected for protection during Indian raids, and used as a depot for the Great Western Stage.

This town had one of the first newspapers published west of the Missouri River, the *Huntsman's Echo*, established in 1858.

Soon after Brigham Young settled his followers on the land around the Great Salt Lake the church council began sending groups of pioneers abroad to proselytize and promote migration to the "Promised Land." The cost of the journey across the Atlantic and the United States was high and, because most converts were very poor, the Utah "saints" had to set up an emigration financing fund. In the middle fifties, when the Utah crops failed and it became impossible for the "saints" to buy oxteams and outfits for the many Europeans who had already sailed, Brigham Young decided to attempt to bring the immigrants on foot from the Missouri; their limited possessions and the small children were to be carried in handcars, which the immigrants were to drag. Those in charge of the arrangements along the Missouri lacked Young's executive ability and some of the groups—called brigades—were sent off much too late in the season. They had not reached the Continental Divide when winter overtook them, and many died.

Members of the brigades starting early experienced hardship but reached Salt Lake City without very heavy losses. More prosperous travelers who drove by the pedestrians were distressed by the appearance they presented. One wrote: "We met two trains, one of thirty and the other of fifty carts, averaging about six to the cart. The carts were generally drawn by one man and three women each, though some carts were drawn by women alone. There were about three women to one man, and two-thirds of the women single. It was the most motley crew I ever beheld. Most of them were Danes, with a sprinkling of Welsh, Swedes, and English, and were generally from the lower classes of their countries. Most could not understand what we said to them. The road was lined for a mile behind the train with the lame, halt, sick, and needy. Many were quite aged, and would be going slowly along, supported by a son or daughter. Some were on crutches; now and then a mother with a child in her arms and two or three hanging hold of her, with a forlorn appearance, would pass slowly along; others, whose condition entitled them to a seat in a carriage, were wending their way through the sand. A few seemed in good spirits."

GIBBON, 165.2 m. (2,060 alt., 825 pop.), stands on the site of a soldiers' colony. Col. John Sharp took advantage of the Homestead Act and the completion of the Union Pacific R. R. to promote colonization by ex-soldiers, with the cooperation of the railroad company and the War Department. Free home sites and reduced railroad fares were offered to the sixty-one colonists who were recruited in New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Massachusetts, and other eastern States. The men arrived here on April 7,

1871; each filed a claim to a quarter section of land and paid a filing fee of \$14 to the U. S. Land Office in Grand Island. Numbers from 1 to 61 were placed in a hat and shaken up, and each settler drew a number—for choice, not for specific plats. For a time the colonists lived in freight cars. Settlement progressed rapidly and eight school districts were organized during the first year.

On April 7, 1891, when the colony had reached its 20th birthday, a reunion was held; this affair is now an annual event though the last of the first settlers has died.

At 167 *m.* is the SITE OF THE JAMES E. BOYD RANCH, once called Nebraska Center. The ranch was a caravan stop and supply station. Boyd, who later (1891-92) served as Governor of Nebraska, probably acquired the ranch about 1858.

The first settlers of Nebraska Center doubtless came here because they thought that the site—about 3 miles from the Platte and 12 or 13 miles northeast of Fort Kearney—would have some measure of protection against Indian attacks, and offer opportunities for developing trade.

A small brewery established on the banks of Wood River made about 10 kegs of beer at a time. The beverage was sold at the fort and in nearby Dobytown for \$6 to \$8 a keg.

KEARNEY, 178.1 *m.* (2,146 alt., 8,575 pop.), seat of Buffalo County, lies on a flat plain on the north side of the Platte River. The town was named for Fort Kearney (*see below*); the name honored Gen. Stephen Watts Kearny. (The misspelled name of the town and fort became statutory.)

The first settlement here was called Kearney Junction. The charter of the Burlington & Missouri R.R. (now the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy) required that it make connection with the Union Pacific somewhere east of the 100th meridian. Fulfillment of this condition resulted in the establishment of Kearney Junction. The town plat was filed on October 27, 1871. On December 3, 1873, when the town was incorporated the name was shortened.

At various times the inhabitants have had high hopes for Kearney. Because of its central geographic position they tried to have it made the capital of the State. When that plan failed a convention was held in St. Louis to launch a drive for making Kearney the capital of the United States. The town was larger during the boom of the eighties and nineties than it is today.

Here are the STATE HOSPITAL, which can accommodate 160 tubercular patients, and a STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE, which has an enrollment of more than 1,000. Both institutions are at the western end of the town.

Kearney is at the junction of US 83 (*see Tour 5*); between Kearney and Elm Creek (*see below*) US 83 and US 30 are united.

Left from Kearney on (paved) State 10 to FORT KEARNEY STATE PARK (*free campsites; baseball diamond; picnicking facilities*), 7 *m.*, covering 80 acres and holding giant cottonwoods, on the site of the famous frontier Army post. Still visible on the grounds are rifle pits and other earthworks, and a grass-covered mound



FORT KEARNEY MONUMENT

that was once the powder magazine in which munitions were stored for military use between the Missouri River and Fort Laramie.

The first Fort Kearney, a blockhouse on the Missouri River at what is now Nebraska City, was built in 1846-1847. Soon after this first post was occupied it was determined to move it to a point that would give more protection to emigrants on the Oregon Trail.

In June 1848, Lt. Daniel P. Woodbury, who chose the site, came here with 175 men and began the construction of fortifications, making and sun-drying adobe brick and building sod stables. Plans drawn in 1852 show that the fort included two corner blockhouses of heavy timber, powder and guard houses, a lookout (accessible by ladder) extending along the entire ridge, and officers' quarters. Numerous barracks and other service buildings were added in succeeding years.

During the Civil War regular troops were withdrawn, and the fort was manned by volunteers, including a number of former Confederate soldiers, who were called Galvanized Yankees. In 1865 a troop of Pawnee was enlisted to help hold the Sioux in check, and these men continued to serve here during the building of the railroad. When the railroad displaced the wagon train, the usefulness of the fort was over. It was abandoned in 1871, and a few years later the military reservation was thrown open for settlement.

Section b. KEARNEY to OGALLALA, 145.4 m. US 30.

West of KEARNEY, 0 m., US 30 follows Watson Blvd., which runs between rows of trees that form an arch so dense that it is almost like a tunnel.

At 2.3 m. (R) is a STATE INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL FOR BOYS, which occupies 11 buildings and is equipped to care for 210 boys.

Near here in 1847 the Mormon pioneers first saw herds of buffalo. For several days before the event, the travelers had noted buffalo tracks and had begun to use dried buffalo dung—chips, in emigrant parlance—for fuel. On the first of May the company sighted a couple of buffalo through their telescopes, and three of the pioneers started off on horseback in the hope of killing them and thereby augmenting the dwindling food supply. A few miles farther west a herd was sighted "about eight miles away;" William Clayton, the official diarist, said he counted 72 through his glass and another man counted 74. Later in the day another and larger herd was seen. Clayton noted in his *Journal* that the view of the animals "excited considerable interest and pleasure in the breasts of the brethren, and as may be guessed, the teams moved slowly and frequently stopped to watch their movement."

At 3.5 m. is a junction with a graveled road.

Right on this road to the COTTONMILL LAKE RECREATION GROUNDS (*fishing; camping facilities*), 0.5 m., which include a 50-acre State-owned lake stocked with sunfish, crappies, catfish, and bullheads.

The roadhouse at 4.8 m., is the former house of the 1733 RANCH, so named because there was at one time a marker on the section line here that read, "1733 miles to San Francisco, 1733 miles to Boston." The original 8,000-acre ranch has been broken up into many small farms since the death of its owner, H. D. Watson, who is remembered as the leading advocate of alfalfa as a Nebraska crop. He made the first dry-farming experiments in the Middle West, raising fruit and alfalfa.

ELM CREEK, 15.3 m. (2,266 alt., 708 pop.), settled by a few families

in 1873, has had a history marked by misfortune. Blizzard followed blizzard in the eighties, killing many local cattle and sweeping away most of the possessions of the inhabitants; in 1906, after the town had been rebuilt, it was almost wiped out again, this time by a raging fire that destroyed all the buildings along the main street.

Elm Creek is at the junction with US 83 (*see Tour 5*).

LEXINGTON, 34.9 *m.* (2,385 alt., 2,962 pop.), is the offspring of a Pony Express station and trading post called Plum Creek, which was on the Oregon Trail south of the river. After the arrival of the railroad at this point, the settlers moved across the river and named their new town in memory of the Battle of Lexington. For some time the little settlement was a rendezvous for gamblers, thieves, and hold-up men, who preyed on miners returning east with gold or silver. For a time the settlement had no organized government or sheriff, but even after a government had been established the officers were ineffective against the hoodlums. The citizens finally formed a vigilance committee and drove out most of the outlaws.

In 1867, aroused by the building of the railroad through their hunting grounds and the patrolling activities of Maj. Frank North and his Pawnee scouts, the Cheyenne, led by their chief, Turkey Leg, tore up a culvert 4 miles west of town and wrecked the train, a west-bound freight. They scalped the crew, broke open the boxcars, and stole the contents. Some of the braves, finding bolts of bright-colored calico, tied the ends to their ponies and galloped off with brave display.

A COMMUNITY PARK and a SWIMMING POOL provide popular recreational facilities for the community.

Left from Lexington on State 21, a graveled road, to a junction with a country road at 2 *m.*

Left on this road 3.5 *m.* to a junction with another country road; R. here to the MIDDLE DIVERSION DAM, 5.5 *m.* The objective of the Tri-County Project, which operates just below the Sutherland Project (*see below*), is the irrigation of about half a million acres of land in Phelps, Kearney, and Adams Counties, and the development of electricity at two power sites along the river. The development, which was budgeted at 29 million dollars, was approved as a PWA project in September 1935, and construction began March 13, 1936.

On State 21, at 3.6 *m.*, is the junction with a dirt road; L here and L again at 2 *m.*; R at 2.7 *m.*; L at 3.7 *m.*; R at 8.8 *m.*; L at 8.9 *m.* along an irrigation ditch to the SITE OF THE PLUM CREEK MASSACRE of 1864, 10 *m.* (*Road being rerouted, 1938; inquire locally*) Here is an enclosed cemetery in the midst of a cultivated field (L).

At the entrance is (L) a Pony Express monument, bearing the usual memorial emblem of a man on a horse. A dirt road circles the area, in which are 12 mounds, only one of which is marked.

A marker in the center, erected by Phelps County in 1930, commemorates an event of August 7, 1864. A party of Iowans, consisting of Frank Morton, his wife, 10 drivers, and a Negro cook, were driving along the Oregon Trail when they were overtaken nearby by Indians. The Indians slew all except the woman, whom they took prisoner and kept for five months. Many Indian relics have been found in this vicinity.

On State 21 at 8 *m.* is the JOHNSON CANYON POWER PLANT, part of the Tri-County Power and Irrigation Project.

COZAD, 48.7 *m.* (2,486 alt., 1,813 pop.), lying in a section of the Platte Valley noted for its many alfalfa fields and haystacks, ships very

large quantities of hay. Several alfalfa mills and feed-making plants are passed as US 30 cuts through the town

By the time the Mormon Pioneers of 1847 reached this point the excitement over buffalo hunting was beginning to impede their progress. Appleton Harmon recorded in his *Journal* that Brigham Young called the men together and issued instructions that no more game was to be killed until needed for food, "for it was a Sin to waste life & flesh." A day or two later Harmon wrote: "had to drive the buffalo out of the way where we halted the buffalo seemed to form a complete line from the river their watering place to the bluffs as far as I could see which was at least 4 m. they stood their ground apparently amased at us until within 30 rods of the wagons when their line was broken down by some taking fright & running off others to satisfy thar curiosity came closer within gun shot of the camp snuffing and shaking their Shaggy heads, but being pursued by the dogs ran off, at this time I could stand on my waggon & see more than 10,000 Buffalo from the fact that the Plain was perfectly black with them on both sides of the river & on the bluff on our right which slopes off gradually."

One early journal describes the preparation of buffalo meat, a common event in this area in the covered wagon days: "Some of our men having been out with their guns, returned at noon overloaded with buffalo meat. We then commenced jerking it. This is a process resorted to for want of time or means to cure meat by salting. The meat is sliced thin, and a scaffold prepared, by setting forks in the ground, about three feet high, and laying small poles or sticks crosswise upon them. The meat is laid upon those pieces, and a slow fire built underneath; the heat and smoke completes the process in half a day; and with an occasional sunning the meat will keep for months.

"An unoccupied spectator, who could have beheld our camp today, would think it a singular spectacle. The hunters returning with the spoil; some erecting scaffolds, and others drying the meat. Of the women, some were washing, some ironing, some baking. At two of the tents the fiddle was employed in uttering its unaccustomed voice among the solitudes of the Platte; at one tent I heard singing; at others the occupants were engaged in reading, some the Bible, others poring over novels. While all this was going on, that nothing might be wanting to complete the harmony of the scene, a Campbellite preacher, named Foster, was reading a hymn, preparatory to religious worship. The fiddles were silenced, and those who had been occupied with that amusement, betook themselves to cards. Such is but a miniature of the great world we had left behind us, when we crossed the line that separates civilized man from the wilderness. But even here the variety of occupation, the active exercise of body and mind, either in labor or pleasure, the commingling of evil and good, show that the likeness is a true one."

GOTHENBURG, 59 m. (2,561 alt., 2,322 pop.), has in its city park a FUR-TRADING POST (*adm. free*), that was erected in 1854 on the Oregon Trail 4 miles east of Fort McPherson and moved to this place in 1931. During 1860 and 1861 it was a Pony Express station; later it was used as



PONY EXPRESS STATION, GOTHENBURG

a stage station; after the coming of the railroads it became a ranch building.

Left from Gothenburg on State 47, a graveled road, beyond the GOTHENBURG GUN CLUB GAME PRESERVE (L), is an Oregon Trail marker, 2.7 m.

Left from the marker on the first country road, L again across a field to the LOWER 96 RANCH (*visitors welcome*), identified by the black "96" painted on the big concrete silo. A lean-to of the tree-shaded black-and-white ranch house is a well preserved log cabin, whose crevices have been cemented. This was the Pat Mullaly Pony Express Station.

Right from Lower 96 Ranch to the unmarked SITE OF THE GILMAN RANCH HOUSE, 10 m. Stage riders used to stop here and Pony Express riders came here when off duty. Mark Twain wrote of stopping at the station on the trip memorialized in *Roughing It*.

At 72.5 m. on US 30 is BRADY (387 pop.).

A hunt that occurred near this place is described by Rufus B Sage in *Rocky Mountain Life* (1857):

"A little before sundown, the rain subsided into a thick fog, and an old bull, in the consequent obscurity, straggled close upon camp.

"The abrupt passage of a rifle-ball through his lights, was his first feeling sense of the presence of danger. The affrighted customer then retreated a few steps, and, falling, surrendered himself to the resistless power of cold lead.

"A large band of cows also made their appearance, in the same manner, and our hunter struck out to waylay them.

"Permitting the unwitting animals to advance within good shooting distance, a discharge from his rifle brought down one of their number. The

band then recoiled slightly; but, snuffing the odor of blood, they returned immediately to their prostrate companion.

"This was enough,—a charm now riveted them to the spot,—a strange infatuation had seized upon them. They began by spurning the ground with their feet,—then, bellowing, gored the fallen beast, as if forcing her to rise,—then, rolling upon the grass, in demonstrative sympathy,—and, now that she had ceased to struggle and lay yet quivering in death, they licked her bleeding wounds and seemed to exercise a kind of mournful rivalry in the bestowment of their testimonials of affection.

"She is encircled by her companions. An effort to approach from without is resisted by those within. A fight ensues, and all becomes confusion. Each turns against her neighbor, and continues the strife till the space around the carcase is again vacated; whereupon a general rush once more centers to the spot, and all unite to react the former scene.

"In this manner they persisted in their frenzied devotion to the fallen one, as if determined to restore her to life and action, or perish by her side.

"Meanwhile the hunter's rifle had been busily employed. . . .

"All hands were now summoned to aid at the work of butchery; but the fast-enshrouding darkness soon drove us back to camp, leaving the task not half completed.

"Our withdrawal from the premises was the signal for possession by the eager wolves, whose constant yelpings the livelong night, made the gloomy interval doubly dismal. By morning, nothing but bones and thick pieces of skin marked the scene of their recent revellings!"

During covered wagon days the practice grew up of writing on buffalo skulls and shoulder blades along the route. The names of men and companies, dates, and the positions of springs and grass were recorded for the benefit of friends and other emigrants who were following the early trains.

Left from Brady on a graveled road to a junction at 4 m.; R. to the UPPER 96 RANCH, 9 m, now the property of V. H. Davis. A monument here commemorates the FRED MACHETTE PONY EXPRESS STATION, which has been moved to the Gothenburg City Park (*see above*). The blacksmith shop, built of red-cedar logs, remains.

MAXWELL, 81.5 m. (2,711 alt., 409 pop.), is at the junction with the unnumbered Fort McPherson National Cemetery road (*see Tour 8A*).

US 30 crosses the North Fork of the Platte.

NORTH PLATTE, 94.7 m. (2,821 alt., 12,061 pop.) (*see NORTH PLATTE*).

Points of Interest: Lincoln County Courthouse, Memorial Park, and others.

(*At the western end of North Platte the time changes from Central Standard to Rocky Mountain.*)

At North Platte is the junction with US 183 (*see Tour 8B*).

West of this place the Mormon Pioneers of 1847 followed the north bank of the North Platte (*see Tour 12*). Emigrants who had followed the



IRRIGATION DITCH

south bank of the Platte to the Forks usually continued westward for some distance on the south bank of the South Platte before crossing the stream.

An emigrant journal of 1849 describes one crossing the Platte: "Four boats, each consisting of two dug-outs fastened together, had been made by emigrants who had crossed before and gone on, others buying their rights and continuing the work. We paid \$3 per wagon for the use of the boats, and swam the oxen. . . .

"We were roused early, and in good season commenced crossing our wagons. The line for two miles along the river bank presented as busy an aspect as it ordinarily does in St. Louis, or any other small town in the States. Wagons in pieces, boxes and chattels of all kinds made a scene of extraordinary activity far out in this uninhabited western country.

"Our 'boat' was called the 'Two Pollies and Betsy,' from their being two dugouts, with a log between them. Joining forces with the twelve Cincinnati mule trains, the 'boat' started off in style with 30 men to cordelle it against the current. The men were obliged to work in the water, which rendered it quite unpleasant; but by 4 o'clock P.M. we were across, and then drove the oxen down to swim.

"With all of our efforts, swimming and wading from that time until dark, we could only get three of them across; so had at last to let them return to the shore, and were obliged to keep watch of them until morning. The water is remarkably swift and cold, the low temperature probably due to our proximity to the snows of the mountains. To the south of us, about four miles from the Platte, there arises a range of very high pine-clad hills, which appears to terminate in the Laramie Mountains. . . .

"Again resumed our labors by recrossing the river for the purpose of crossing our ox-teams, but at first with no better success than the day before. Here we witnessed scenes far surpassing anything the imagination ever conceived—the long to be remembered crossing of the Platte. No pencil can portray or pen depict the scene as it really was.

"Fancy for one moment our feelings on observing the vast aggregation of oxen, mules, horses and wagons mixed indiscriminately with men clothed, half-clad and even almost naked, encountering the elements that were temporarily stopping our progress. By about noon we succeeded in crossing; but both men and teams were extremely exhausted.

"The onlookers witnessed sights ranging from the laughable to the alarming. In one place six men were assisted ashore by hanging to the tail of a mule, with a rider on him at that, while in another case extreme efforts were being made to save a man from drowning. A boat, with a wagon containing women and children, sank but was saved by striking a bar.

"I was carried by the swift current outside the jam of cattle, and saved myself by catching hold of the tail of an ox as I passed him, and letting him tow me to shore. Those scenes are over, though we shall long remember them. We yoked our teams and drove on over a very rough sand road for about four miles, where we encamped on the river bank to feed our oxen and rest ourselves. Many a man here wishes himself back in the States."

At 96.7 *m.* is the junction with a dirt road.

Right on this road to SCOUTS' REST RANCH, 0.5 *m.* (*adm. free*), former home of "Buffalo Bill" Cody, who entertained here the North brothers, Kit Carson, General Sheridan, Pawnee Bill, Death Valley Scottie, Buck Taylor, and Bishop Beecher.

William Frederick Cody spent part of his boyhood in Leavenworth, Kans., where were the headquarters of the freighting line of Russell, Majors, and Waddell, supply-carriers for the Government. Young Cody first appeared in the Platte country as an outrider for his company—a sort of office boy on horseback. He often traveled the section of the Oregon Trail that went past his future home. Later, when the tracks of the Kansas Pacific (now part of the Union Pacific) were moving westward from Kansas City, he contracted to furnish buffalo meat for the construction workers. It is said that within 17 months he delivered 4,280 buffaloes that he had shot.

When the construction days were over he turned to the stage and for four years toured the United States in a production called the *Prairie Warf*. He then conceived the idea of the Wild West Show that made him famous and created many romantic notions about the West.

Shaded by cottonwoods and facing the grounds where the Wild West Show was rehearsed is a solid ranch house, rebuilt since Cody's day, and an immense barn. Everything at the ranch was reminiscent of Cody's shows, the eaves of the main corral, built in 1887, look like gunstocks, and the cattle stall partitions have the outlines of horses.

The plat of the ranch resembles the map of Nebraska.

West of O'FALLONS, 111 6 *m.* (10 pop.), the bluffs again draw near the stream; here one route of the Oregon Trail, like a branch of the Union Pacific Railroad today, crossed to the south bank of the North Platte River, reaching it at Ash Creek. After the establishment of Fort Sedgwick, near the present Julesburg in northeastern Colorado, much trail travel went



AIRVIEW OF SUTHERLAND PROJECT IRRIGATION DITCH

south to the fort before going over to Fort Laramie, the next point providing protection and supplies. The trail to Julesburg ran along the south bank of the South Fork. After 1862 the Overland stages were sent westward along the South Platte and then along the Cherokee Trail, which in Wyoming roughly followed the route of modern US 30.

SUTHERLAND, 114.6 m. (2,959 alt., 753 pop.), was laid out in 1869.

Left from Sutherland on a marked graveled road to a junction at 17 m.; L here to the SUTHERLAND RESERVOIR, 3.5 m., a natural depression of 5,000 acres, walled off with dikes. Water is carried to this reservoir through a concrete pipe 14 feet in diameter and 7,800 feet long; it drops under the South Platte River in its course from the Kingsley Diversion Dam (*see Tour 12*).

At 136 m. a monument (L) indicates that the SITE OF ALKALI LAKE PONY EXPRESS STATION is 1.6 miles to the south.

OGALLALA, 145.4 m. (3,211 alt., 1,631 pop.), seat of Keith County, was named for the Ogialla (also spelled Ogallala, *scatter one's own*) band of the Teton Sioux.

After the Civil War, which had ruined the Texas cattle business, it became necessary for the Texans to find new markets for their beef. Con-

struction of the Union Pacific Railroad provided the first opportunity to send cattle in large numbers to the slaughter houses east of the Mississippi, and by 1867 the herds that had been running wild on the lower plains were being rounded up and driven north to the new railroad line. Ogallala was one of the first shipping points developed.

As early as June of 1867 the cowboys began to arrive with their herds, after a long trek during which they had had to fight stampedes, Indians, and sleep. Toward the end of such trips it was not uncommon for the cowboys to paste their eyelids open with tobacco, according to Capt. James Cook in his *Fifty Years on the Old Frontier*.

By the middle of July in the seventies there were often as many as 15 outfits camping on the banks of the river south of town. The trail was used until 1895.

After the cattle had been delivered for shipment the cowboys felt that they had a right to celebrate and the early history of this cowtown is replete with stories of violence. Little or no excuse was needed for starting a fight. A man named Bill Campbell began insulting two strangers, brothers named Moy, when he heard them ordering baked beans for their dinner in the old Rooney Hotel. The Moys stood his remarks on the subject of "damned Yankee bean-eaters" and "cowardly Yankees" until they lost patience; when the smoke cleared away Campbell was dead.

Five blocks west of the main street, on a graveled road between 10th and 11th Sts., is a plot of ground on the southwest corner of the block, rising 80 to 100 feet above the South Platte River. This is BOOT HILL CEMETERY, so called because many of those buried here died and were buried with their boots on. There has not been a burial since the eighties. Boot Hill today, except for a faded sign bearing its name, is like any other hill. No mounds are visible and there are no grave stones.

Old Ogallala lay between the Union Pacific R.R. right-of-way, 10 blocks south of Boot Hill, and the river. In a park at the western edge of town is (R) an Oregon Trail memorial, and next to it is a round yellow marker in memory of the Chisholm Cattle Trail; this most famous of all cattle trails did not come into Nebraska, though an extension of this trail, often called by the same name, did

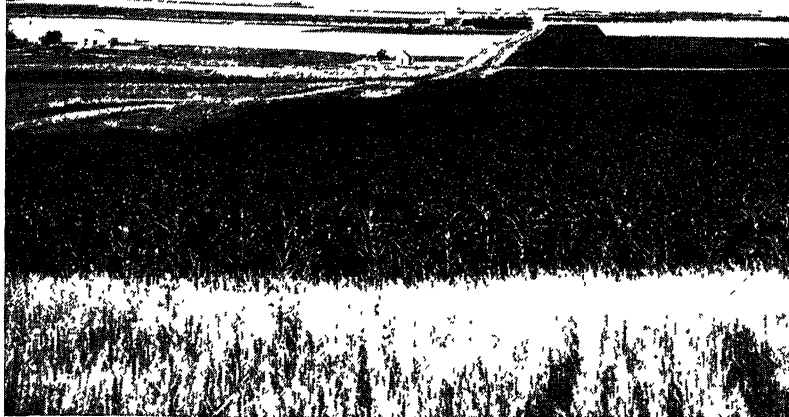
At Ogallala is the junction with US 26 (*see Tour 12*).

Section c. OGALLALA to WYOMING LINE, 124.3 m. US 30.

West of OGALLALA, 0 m., is BRULE, 9 m. (3,287 alt., 329 pop.), which was named for the Brule (Fr. *burned*) tribe of the Teton Sioux. US 30 now leaves the South Platte, which turns southwest into Colorado.

Left from Brule on a graveled road to an Oregon Trail marker, 1 m; R from the marker about 2 miles (no road) is the LOWER CALIFORNIA CROSSING, where one route of the Oregon Trail crossed the South Platte. Some of the wagons crossed the river farther west, near Julesburg, Colo. This stretch followed the valley of Lodgepole Creek for several miles, then swung north to the bank of the North Platte, which was reached in the neighborhood of the present Bridgeport.

At 10 m. is a Pony Express monument (R), erected by Keith County



TABLELINE

in memory of the DIAMOND SPRINGS STATION, which was eight miles south.

At 13.5 *m.*, on the north side of the South Platte River, is a marker of the California Crossing. Here one route of the Oregon Trail turned northwest to reach the North Platte. In 1862 Holladay rerouted his stages, which had followed the Oregon Trail by Fort Laramie and through South Pass, largely because of the hostility of the Indians, and many emigrants decided that the stage route offered them great protection.

CHAPPELL, 39.3 *m.* (3,697 alt., 1,061 pop.), was named in honor of John Chappell, an official of the Union Pacific R.R., who assisted in laying out the town site. It is in the largest wheat-raising area in Nebraska.

The Chappell Memorial Gallery has a fine collection of etchings, including the work of Rembrandt, Whistler, Muirhead Bone, and others, and a collection of Japanese prints.

West of Chappell the highway follows Lodgepole Creek, so named because Indians of several tribes gathered poles for their tepees near the headwaters of the stream. There is a gradual rise in the land between Chappell and the Cheyenne County valley.

Although the natural wildness that characterized this district in pioneer times has disappeared, the soapweed still grows on the sides of the hills, and its ivory, bell-shaped blossoms, rising above the green spike leaves,

appear in May or June. Cactus is also seen, and occasionally a coyote; but prairie dogs, prairie owls, and rattlesnakes are no longer numerous.

LODGEPOLE, 48.7 m. (3,832 alt., 436 pop.), is the scene of the Old Settler's Reunion of Cheyenne County, held annually on Labor Day.

Left from Lodgepole to the junction with a country road just beyond the railroad tracks; L. here to the JOSEPH OBERFELDER RANCH, 0.8 m. (*visited by permission of Robert Oberfelder at ranch or in Sidney*), which has picnic grounds and fishing pools.

LILY LAKE here has been formed by the damming of Spring Creek, a tributary of the Lodgepole

At 65 m. is the eastern junction with State 19 (*see Tour 6*).

There are several stories of wrecks that occurred in this area in the early days; indeed in rough country the only advantage offered by the railroads was speed, since ox carts were safer and more comfortable. Jerry-built bridges were liable to fall to pieces without notice, locomotives jumped the tracks if speeded, and the wooden cars were often set afire by sparks. It was not until the high death toll brought on large numbers of damage suits that the railroad companies reluctantly installed safety devices. Another hazard of early rail travel, particularly in the West after gold and silver mining began, came from holdups. Some bandits stopped the trains in remote places and merely looted the baggage cars, but others wrecked them and plundered passengers as well as freight.

SIDNEY, 66.5 m. (4,085 alt., 3,306 pop.), seat of Cheyenne County, was named for Sidney Dillon, New York solicitor for the Union Pacific R.R. The town, situated in Lodgepole Valley, is surrounded by high rolling plains, broken here and there by imposing cliffs. High bluffs at the north protect it from winter winds.

The town developed around FORT SIDNEY and grew rapidly because it was nearer the Black Hills than any other railroad point of consequence when the 1876-77 gold rush began. The fort, at first a subpost of Fort Sedgwick in Colorado, was called Sidney Barracks until 1870, when it was made an independent post. It was established for the protection of the railroad construction workers and was maintained until 1894, when the Indian wars were over. The troops stationed here took part in the Battle of Wounded Knee (*see INDIANS*). Near the highway is a 20-foot grassy mound that formed part of the rifle range. Across the junction point of the Union Pacific and Burlington tracks and about two blocks south is a small hexagonal structure of local limestone that was built as an AMMUNITION STOREHOUSE, it is now a part of a residence. One block south of US 30 on 6th Ave. are two old BARRACKS, now used as dwellings. Opposite is a large well-preserved building, said to have been the OFFICERS' QUARTERS. The stone barn east and south of the Burlington tracks, now used as a sales pavilion and barn, is believed to have been a fort stable.

Most of the early Black Hills prospectors bought their supplies in the settlement here and the dance halls, gambling house, and saloons of the place never closed their doors. At one time there were 23 saloons in one block. It is said that during this period about 1,500 people passed daily through the town. Here, as in other jumping-off places, stores of food-

stuff and equipment were quickly exhausted and orders rushed to wholesale markets could not be filled rapidly enough to meet the demand. Fantastic prices prevailed as the fortune hunters hurried to overtake and pass those who had already left for the hills.

Shootings were daily events that drew little attention. Someone was shot at a dance one night and instead of stopping the dance the incident only served to heighten the entertainment. The corpse was propped up in a corner and the dancing continued. During a later blast of gunfire, another man was killed. His body was set up beside that of the first victim. It was not until a third corpse was added to the group that the party came to an end.

Lynchings were also frequent. A notable "stringing up" took place in May 1879. Charles Reed had been living with Mollie Wardner. A friend of his, named Henry Loomis, was walking by Mollie's house one morning with two other men when Mollie called to them, "Come in, darling, and bring your friends along." Loomis, who was beginning to be uneasy about the lack of observance of the proprieties in local life, felt that his friend's consort was conducting herself improperly and rebuked her. Eager gossips carried his words to Reed but failed to make clear that Loomis was defending the Reed family honor. Reed set out posthaste, found Loomis, and shot him without argument. Reed was thrown into jail and after Loomis had died in considerable agony Loomis' friends whipped up public opinion against the murderer. An outraged mob broke open the jail and carried Reed to the nearest telegraph pole—the favorite lynching-tree in most treeless territories. The end of a rope that had been noosed round his throat was thrown over the pole's cross-bar and he was made to climb a ladder that had been placed against the pole. He was offered the usual courtesy, choice of jumping off or of having the ladder pulled from under him. Reed made the grand gesture, later imitated by other unfortunates in like position: "I'll jump off, gentlemen, and show you how a brave man can die. Goodbye, gentlemen, one and all." His body hung in the breeze for a couple of days before it was taken down for burial in the usual Boot Hill Cemetery of the settlement.

There is a legend that during the gold rush days the Union Pacific warned through passengers against stepping off the train during the halt here if they wanted to leave the town alive.

There is nothing now in the town to remind visitors of these gun-blazing days, but it still depends to some extent on traffic to and from the Black Hills, being at the point where the Burlington Line between Denver and the Black Hills forms a junction with the transcontinental Union Pacific. Companies manufacturing farm machinery and other commodities maintain distribution centers here.

Opposite the Union Pacific Depot is the UNION PACIFIC HOTEL, built at the time the railroad was being constructed. North of the hotel is an old frame structure, formerly a STAGE-LINE WAREHOUSE used for the storage of supplies that were to be freighted to the forts, Indian agencies, and mining towns to the north.

At Sidney is the junction with State 19 (*see Tour 6*).

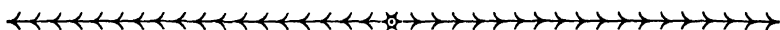
West of Sidney the highway is level and there are few turns. The soil is sandy and the country somewhat resembles northwestern Nebraska. The bluffs on both sides of the river are formed of the impure limestone called "mortar beds"; they contain many fossilized bones of the period when this area was a steaming swamp and many now-extinct animals, including a primitive camel, lived here.

At 80.5 m. is POINT OF ROCKS (R), from which is a broad view of the craggy, and pine-dotted country. It is said that the Indians sometimes rolled rocks from the elevation on to Union Pacific trains. Earlier this point was an observation post for soldiers protecting the railroad construction gangs. There is now an airplane beacon on the summit. Air currents in this area affect planes flying between North Platte and Cheyenne, Wyo.

POTTER, 85 m. (4,389 alt., 515 pop.), was named for a General Potter, who was at one time commander of troops in western Nebraska. Nearby, LODGEPOLE CREEK disappears underground, but reappears several miles downstream. Besides providing water for irrigation here the stream provides opportunities for fishing, especially near the many dams built along its course. Bullheads, perch, sunfish, and some bass are found. (*Permission to fish or hunt must be obtained from land owners.*)

KIMBALL, 103.2 m. (4,709 alt., 1,711 pop.), is noted for the amount of wheat it ships, and is the trade center of an extensive potato-growing country. It was the southern terminus of the old stage route that passed through the Wild Cat Range to Gering on the North Platte River.

At 124.3 m. US 30 crosses the Wyoming Line, 0.8 miles east of Pine Bluffs, Wyo. (*see WYOMING, Tour 2*).



Tour 8A

Maxwell—Fort McPherson National Cemetery—Cottonwood Canyon. Un-numbered roads.

Maxwell to Cottonwood Canyon, 5.1 m.

Graveled and dirt roads.

This road branches south from US 30 (*see Tour 8*) at MAXWELL, 0 m. (*see Tour 8*), and crosses the Platte River.

FORT MCPHERSON NATIONAL CEMETERY, 3.7 m. (*open sunrise to sunset; register at office; information from superintendent*), was on the Oregon Trail.

In 1863 Cottonwood Springs, a small settlement, became a stopping

place for the Overland stages. Since travelers along the Platte in this area were frequently exposed to Indian attack from ambush, a Government fort was built in 1863 on the bluffs overlooking the narrowest part of the passage and commanding the entire valley. Its buildings, occupying a quadrangle 560 by 844 feet, were principally of cedar logs, and included five barracks, a log guardhouse, a commissary, a hospital, and a canteen. It is said that the fort at times accommodated as many as 10 companies of cavalry and infantry. First known as Fort McKean in honor of Maj. Thomas J. McKean, commanding officer for that territory, the fort was renamed Fort Cottonwood in May 1864. In 1866 it became Fort McPherson, in honor of Maj. Gen. James B. McPherson. Here emigrants were halted, their arms and ammunition carefully examined, and their force occasionally strengthened by additional trains with Government supplies bound for Fort Laramie.

Within a year of the completion of the fort trouble broke out, with the Plum Creek Massacre (*see Tour 8*) as one of the results. For more than a decade soldiers and Pawnee scouts from the post gave help to settlers and western travelers. A cavalry troop from the fort intervened at the tribal battle of Massacre Canyon (*see Tour 11*) in time to save the Pawnee party from destruction.

Fort McPherson, as the center of community life for a large region, was the scene of pleasant as well as tragic events. Dances drew soldiers, settlers, and cowboys from ranches whose names are prominent in western anecdote: Burk's "Flatiron D," Nickels' "96," Walker's "LW," A. D. Welch's "EW," and Bratt's "Double-O." To the fort came trappers, travelers, and Indian volunteers, the latter in half uniforms, with the seats cut out of their breeches so that the riders might stick to their mounts. High points in the social life of the fort were the visits of Grand Duke Alexis of Russia, who came to hunt buffalo in 1872 (*see Tour 9*), and of the Earl of Dunraven, who was met at the fort by Doc Carver (*see Tour 8B*) and Kit Carson in 1874. With Fort McPherson as its base, the duke's party rode to the hunt with Buffalo Bill Cody in charge, leading 100 Indian warriors.

The burial ground became a national cemetery in 1873. On January 5, 1887, Fort McPherson was abandoned. Now rows of white headstones and tall cottonwoods are the principal reminder of what was a center of frontier life.

As the Indian wars ceased and various forts were abandoned, the bodies in other military cemeteries were transferred to this plot. More than 20 posts are represented, among them the key posts of Laramie, Wyo., and Kearney, Sidney, Hartsuff, Gothenburg, and Farnam in Nebraska. Bodies were also sent here from Fort Hall in Idaho, and Manila in the Philippine Islands. Of the 1,150 soldiers and members of their families who are buried here, 558 are unnamed.

Of the original military reservation of 16 square miles, only the 20 acres in the cemetery remain. A low brick wall encloses the older plot and the green-shuttered, two-story brick residence of the officer in charge of the cemetery, who is also its historian. Near the middle of the ground is

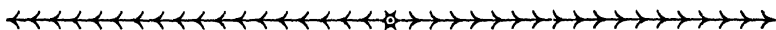
a block of marble bearing the names of the 27 soldiers who, with Lt. John Lawrence Grattan, were killed by the Sioux 8 miles from Fort Laramie, and were buried here. The cemetery holds the dust of many pioneers, as well as of a number of Pawnee, whose tribe was friendly to the whites Spotted Horse, a noted Pawnee scout who aided the soldiers at the fort, is buried here. Hundreds of graves are unmarked. In more recent graves are buried many World War soldiers. Plaques, with four-line poems in silver on a black background, have been placed among the pine-sheltered graves. Memorial services are held here on Decoration Day.

Right from Fort McPherson on a graveled road to BIGNELL, 5 *m.* (75 pop.). At 6.5 *m.* is the junction with a foot trail; L. 0.6 *m.* on this trail to SIOUX LOOKOUT From this hill the surrounding towns of Hershey, North Platte, Maxwell, and Brady are visible. The canyons around the Lookout were hide-outs for the Indians, who used the hill to observe wagon trains crossing the plains. On the crest is the figure of an Indian chief gazing over the countryside

Left from Fort McPherson Cemetery on a graveled road to the mouth of COTTONWOOD CANYON, 5.1 *m.*, deeply eroded, with a wide floor and gently sloping sides.

Left from the mouth of Cottonwood Canyon to a Pony Express marker (L), 0.2 *m.*; and 0.2 *m.* farther E. is a black iron fence (R) enclosing a tall concrete statue of a Civil War soldier holding a gun, marking the SITE OF THE OLD FORT MCPHERSON FLAGSTAFF. Cottonwood Springs, the first white settlement in Lincoln County, stood here

At 0.7 *m.* beyond the Fort McPherson Flagstaff on the same road is another monument, marking the SITE OF THE RANCH OF CHARLES McDONALD (R) The ranch was established at Cottonwood Springs in January 1860.



Tour 8B

North Platte—Maywood—McCook; US 183.
North Platte to McCook, 75.7 *m.*

Graveled roadbed
Limited accommodations.

US 183 branches south from US 30 (*see Tour 8*) at NORTH PLATTE, 0 *m.* (*see Tour 8*), following S. Jeffers St.

FREMONT SLOUGH, 2.5 *m.*, is a small muddy, winding creek running parallel with the South Platte River and named for Frémont, who, with his party of explorers, camped near this point in 1843.

The highway passes the entrance to the UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA EXPERIMENT STATION, 3.1 *m.* (*adm. free, open until 9 p.m.*). This institution

develops new varieties of crops and demonstrates new methods of farming.

The SUTHERLAND PROJECT POWER PLANT, 3.5 m. (L), has two turbines with a potential of 14,500 kilowatts each, and transmission equipment and space for two additional units. The Sutherland Project is one of the Platte Valley Public Power and Irrigation projects

The REGULATING RESERVOIR, which holds at least three days' supply of water for the plant, is fed by a canal from the Sutherland Reservoir. It has a capacity of 6,000 acre-feet, and flows through a 3,000-foot penstock to the powerhouse. Water from the spillway empties into the South Platte.

At the northern edge of MAYWOOD, 40.4 m. (525 pop.), is blue, tree-bordered MAYWOOD LAKE (*free fishing on all but one side*). It has been stocked with bass, catfish, and crappies. At the eastern edge of town is a water-power mill with an old overshot wheel.

At Maywood is the junction with State 23.

Left on this graveled road to CURTIS, 6 m. (960 pop.), on Medicine Creek, near the mouth of Curtis Creek, for which it is named. The name of both creek and town originated in the 1870's when Curtis, a trapper, settled near the point where the small creek enters the Medicine

At Curtis is the NEBRASKA SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE (*visiting hours 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily*). This State-governed school, founded in 1911, is at the northern edge of town, on a rise of ground north of Medicine Creek Valley. Part of the range of nearby hills is included in the 475-acre tract of land used for the school's experiments. A tree project is carried on here in cooperation with the State forest service. Almost 10,000 trees have been planted during the past 10 years. The land along Fox Creek is irrigated and devoted to truck farming. A herd of highgrade Holstein cows is kept on the grounds.

Among the school buildings is a MUSEUM (*open on request*), exhibiting specimens of animals native to western Nebraska.

1. Left from Curtis 20 m. on a road not improved but passable except during rains, to the mouth of a large canyon. From here canyons extend south to the Republican River on one side, and north to the Platte on the other, with tributary canyons leading off at intervals. These branch canyons are of more recent origin and have steeper sides than the main valley. Many of them reveal the typical geological formation of this region: loess above and a reddish clay known as the Loveland loess below, with the two deposits separated by a black carbonaceous layer that represents an old soil zone.

These deposits, it is believed, were laid down by the wind during the Pleistocene epoch. Numerous fossils have been found here. The specimen of the mammoth in the Nebraska State Museum at Lincoln, one of the largest on record, was found a few miles north of Curtis. (*See PALEONTOLOGY.*)

During the summer there is an abundance of wild fruit in this area. Choke-cherry trees, wild plum thickets, gooseberry and currant bushes grow in almost all the canyons. Here also are several species of birds not commonly found in other parts of the State. One is the magpie, which gives a shrill, throaty warning when frightened and flies from tree to tree, its long black and white feathers streaming behind. Several species of hawks are indigenous to this region, and occasionally an eagle is seen.

2. Right from Curtis on State 23S to STOCKVILLE, 18.8 m. (186 pop.), seat of Frontier County and the first town in southwestern Nebraska. The town was staked out and settled in 1871 by W. L. McCleary, and has changed little since.

Stockville's first white settler was Hank Clifford, who lived with his mother-in-law, Eena Teglake, a Sioux squaw. A monument marks her grave in the Stockville cemetery.

Stockville was already a year old when, on May 14, 1872, Congress authorized a

Federal road from Cottonwood Springs, passing south through Stockville to the mouth of the Red Willow, where two companies of troops were stationed for the summer.

a. Left 2 *m* from Stockville on a dirt road on Medicine Creek are high bluffs and ravines near which are many PREHISTORIC INDIAN VILLAGE SITES, several of which have been examined. The site of one (Medicine 4) consists of ruins of houses and lodges, constructed of hardwood, and scattered along the high bluff nearly 100 feet above Medicine Valley. Many artifacts have been discovered.

b. Right 3 *m*. on a dirt road from Stockville on Medicine Creek to the CARVER MONUMENT Dr W F Carver, a dentist who became an outstanding buffalo hunter, was one of the colorful figures of the West in the sixties and came to Nebraska after experiences fitting him for the wildest of Wild West life. Born in Winslow, Ill., he left home at the age of 14 because his father punished him harshly for a boyish prank. He lived with the Indians of Minnesota for a number of years. But his white bringing-up was at variance with the ways of the Indians, and he left them to hunt and trap alone. At the outbreak of the Sioux war of 1862, Carver joined the U S Army under Gen Henry Hastings Sibley. Because of Carver's knowledge of the country, Sibley made him a guide and scout. After Sibley had driven the Indians out of Minnesota, Carver left for the Nebraska plains in company with another trapper and established himself for some time on Medicine Creek near Stockville. But his favorite camping place was to the west in what is now Chase County, near Imperial. In 1876 Carver settled in California.

Carver's contemporaries were Texas Jack, Wild Bill Hickok, Johnny Nelson (the Squaw Man), Buffalo Bill, Kit Carson, and Jim Bridger.

Carver and Buffalo Bill organized the first Wild West Show. It opened in Omaha in May, 1883, with Carver billed as the Great Rifle Shot. On one of his "off-days" Carver became enraged because of his inaccurate shooting, and turned the act over to Buffalo Bill. The partnership was soon dissolved. When Carver started his own show, the two men became enemies and remained so for the rest of their lives. Carver died in 1927 and was buried at his old home in Winslow, Ill.

South of Maywood on US 183 is McCOOK, 75 7 *m* (see Tour 9), at the junction with US 6 (see Tour 9).



Tour 9

(Council Bluffs, Iowa)—Omaha—Lincoln—Hastings—Holdrege—McCook—Imperial—(Holyoke, Colo.); US 6.

Missouri River at Omaha to Colorado Line, 389.2 *m*.

Between Omaha and Milford and between Dorchester and Imperial, the Burlington Lines parallel the route. The Burlington Trailways busses follow this highway the entire distance.

Concrete roadbed between Omaha and Holdrege, concrete and bituminous mat between Oxford and Colorado Line, graveled between Holdrege and Oxford. Accommodations limited except in larger towns; hotels chiefly in cities.

A typical cross section of the State is traversed by this route, which in the eastern and central sections runs through slightly hilly farming country and in the western through a semi-arid region.

Section a. OMAHA to HASTINGS, 161.7 m. US 6.

At 0 m. US 6 crosses the Missouri River (*see IOWA Tour 14*) on a toll bridge (*car and driver 15¢; additional passengers 5¢ each*) at the eastern city limits of Omaha.

OMAHA, 0.6 m. (1,040 alt., 214,006 pop.) (*see OMAHA*).

Points of Interest. Creighton University, Omaha Municipal University, Joslyn Memorial, Douglas County Courthouse, South Omaha Stockyards, and others

Omaha is at the junction with US 73 (*see Tour 1*).

Right from Omaha on US 30-Alt, the former route of US 30 (*see Tour 8*); US 30-Alt traverses flat grazing country, proceeding directly west from Omaha

BOYS TOWN, 11 m. (*open 8-5*), known also as Father Flanagan's Home, is dedicated to homeless boys. There is a main building, an office building and gymnasium, a trades building and assembly hall, a power building, the home of Father Flanagan, a teachers' home, and dairy barns. Most of the buildings are of red brick trimmed with white stone. The town, situated on 320 acres of farm land, has a population of 275 boys. It is supported by contributions, numbering among its benefactors Jack Dempsey, William Randolph Hearst, and the late Will Rogers. During its history the home has befriended more than 4,000 boys.

Shortly after his ordination, in 1912, Father Flanagan started a hotel for penniless and transient men. In December 1917 he borrowed \$90 from a friend to pay the rental on a house in midtown Omaha. Two newsboys who had been sleeping in the men's hotel came to live with him. Three more were placed in his care by the Juvenile Court. Soon this refuge for the homeless was filled beyond capacity. The chief food of the first Christmas dinner was a barrel of sauerkraut donated by a friend. Later the home was moved to the old German Civic Center on South 13th Street.

With difficulty Father Flanagan was able to finance purchase of the present land. Here wooden shelters were built to house the increasing number of boys, and the site was named Overlook Farm. In August 1936 the home was incorporated as a village. Dan Kampan, 17, the town's first mayor, visited New York City in November 1936 as the guest of Mayor LaGuardia. A motion picture, *Boys Town* made in 1938, starred Mickey Rooney and Spencer Tracy.

US 6 follows Center Street in Omaha.

MILLARD, 13.3 m. (1,067 alt., 321 pop.), lying in the valley of Little Pappio Creek, depends for its trade on farmers of the surrounding Douglas County area, many of whom are prosperous cattle feeders. Incorporated as a village in 1885, and named for Senator J. H. Millard, the town celebrated its golden jubilee in 1935.

GRETNA, 23.8 m. (1,247 alt., 477 pop.), is a farming town. It has some trucking business, but this is less important than it was before the new highway was built south of town. Gretna was laid out in 1887, and developed around a railroad station on the Burlington. Trucks loaded with cattle, sheep, and hogs bound for the Omaha market are a familiar sight along this stretch of the highway.

At 26.6 m. is the junction with State 85.

Left on State 85, a good graveled road, to the SOUTH BEND STATE FISH HATCHERY, 6 m. (*adm. free, picnic areas, camping prohibited*) This hatchery, the

first in the State, is on the north bank of the Platte River. So-called pond fishes are propagated, including bass, sunfish, and crappie. The grounds embrace 50 acres of rough, wooded, bluff land. The hatchery is situated on a level shelf extending back from the river into a steep ravine. Springs gushing from the sandstone of the ravine supply water for the fish ponds and hatching troughs. Not far from the riverbank is the building that houses the aquarium, surrounded by a lawn and flower beds. A path leads through native timber to the top of a bluff. From this point there is a good view of the broad Platte Valley and the Platte River with its long sand bars glistening in the sun.

At 31.5 m. the highway crosses the Platte River, here very broad and shallow. On the east bank is LINOMA BEACH, a privately-owned amusement resort with a sand beach for swimming.

Right from Linoma Beach to the NEBRASKA NATIONAL GUARD CAMP, 0.5 m. (*annual encampment in August*).

ASHLAND, 34.8 m. (1,086 alt., 1,786 pop.), was named for the home of Henry Clay near Lexington, Ky. The highway passes through the southern part of the town, a mile from the business district.

Ashland is at the junction with State 34, a graveled road.

Right on this road to a junction at 7.9 m.; L here to MEMPHIS, 84 m. (1,087 alt., 147 pop.), a small country trading place in the fertile valley of Wahoo Creek.

Northwest of Memphis is the MEMPHIS LAKE RECREATION GROUNDS (*fishing and camping*), containing a 77-acre lake, one of the largest artificial lakes in eastern Nebraska.

LINCOLN, 59.5 m. (1,148 alt., 79,592 pop.) (*see LINCOLN*).

Points of Interest: State Capitol, University of Nebraska, State Historical Museum, Nebraska Wesleyan University, William Jennings Bryan House, and others.

Lincoln is at the junction with US 77 (*see Tour 2*) and State 2 (*see Tour 10*). US 6 follows O St., Lincoln's main highway.

At 80 m. US 6 crosses the Big Blue River, near CAMP KIWANIS, which has accommodations for 135 girls.

MILFORD, 80.1 m. (1,403 alt., 852 pop.), was once an important mill town. Here the Ponca camped when being transferred to a reservation in Oklahoma. Prairie Flower, daughter of Chief Standing Bear of the Ponca, is believed to have been buried here.

At the eastern end of Milford, the highway passes the SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' HOME (L) and the NEBRASKA STATE INDUSTRIAL HOME FOR WOMEN (*visiting hours, Thurs. 2-4 p.m.*).

In SHOGO LITHIA PARK are SHOGO LITHIA SPRINGS, named for a local Indian girl. Gushing from under a ledge of rock at the rate of 900 gallons an hour, the water of the springs was highly prized by the Indians for curative properties.

At 88.7 m. US 6 passes (L) the BLUE RIVER RECREATION GROUNDS (*free camping and fishing*), covered by stands of native timber. Wildlife is protected here by strict enforcement of game laws.

At 92.7 m. is the junction with State 33, a graveled road.

Left on this road to CRETE, 10.4 m. (1,353 alt., 2,865 pop.), first platted as Blue River City in 1870. The railroad was completed to Crete in 1871, and the town was incorporated in 1873. The population is largely of German and Czechoslovakian descent.



GRETTA FISH HATCHERY

Crete has a flour mill, a creamery, a plant manufacturing camping equipment, folding election booths, and a brewery. It also has a TREE MENAGERIE, by the highway at the eastern edge of town, consisting of many boxwoods trimmed into grotesque shapes.

Near Crete, in a densely wooded spot of 83 acres on the Blue River reached only by boat, is CAMP STRADER, a summer camp for boys between the ages of 9 and 18.

DOANE COLLEGE, situated on a hill in the eastern part of town, was founded in 1872 as a Congregational school and named for Thomas Doane, superintendent of the Burlington & Missouri River R.R. Yearly enrollment is about 250. North of Crete on the Blue River is HORKY'S PARK (*swimming pool, cabins and cottages, dance hall, outboard motor and rowboats for rent*). TUXEDO PARK also offers facilities for fishing, swimming, and dancing.

EXETER, 109.7 m. (1,608 alt., 940 pop.), founded in 1871, has a factory making tabs for indexing account and record books, cards and files.

FAIRMONT, 117 m. (1,643 alt., 740 pop.), a substantial little town in a good farming district, was first called Hesperia (*land of the west*). Following the plan of the C. B. & Q. R.R. to name the towns along the line in alphabetical order, Hesperia, sixth in the list, was changed to Fairmont in 1871.

SUTTON, 133 m. 1,682 alt., 1,540 pop.), was named for Sutton, Mass. Once the seat of Clay County, it is the oldest and largest town in the county. Most of the early settlers were Russian-German peasants.

At 143 m. is the west junction with State 14.

Left on State 14 to CLAY CENTER, 6.2 m. (1,781 alt., 933 pop.), founded about 1879 to settle a county seat dispute. In 1918 the \$100,000 courthouse was built. An incubator factory flourished from 1920 to 1925. A rural trading center, Clay Center also has a radio station, KMMJ.

HASTINGS, 161.7 m. (1,935 alt., 15,940 pop.) (*see HASTINGS*).

Points of Interest: Hastings College, City Museum, Sunnyside, and others

Hastings is at the junction with US 281 (*see Tour 4*).

Section b. HASTINGS to COLORADO LINE, 227.5 m. US 6.

US 6 leads west from HASTINGS, 0 m.

At 1 m. the highway passes Ingleside (R), the NEBRASKA STATE HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE (*visiting hours 1:30-4.00 p.m.*), the largest institution of its kind in the State, with a total population, staff and patients, of 1,725 (1937).

At 7.9 m. is a junction with a graveled road.

Right on this road to JUNIATA, 1.6 m. (1,974 alt, 367 pop.), oldest town and once the seat of Adams County. Named for the Juniata River in Pennsylvania, the town declined with the coming of the St. Joseph and Denver R.R. to Hastings. The OLD WELL still stands in the center of the town, a bandstand has been built around it.

KENESAW, 17.6 m. (2,051 alt, 614 pop.), numbers among its business establishments an old blacksmith shop. Because so many of its early settlers came from Virginia, the town still observes Virginia Day, though with the passing of the pioneers the popularity of this event is waning.

Left from the northern edge of Kenesaw 1.5 m. to a junction; R. here to a junction at 3.5 m.

1 Left from this junction 1 m. to the McLeod Farm, where on a knoll overlooking the Platte Valley is the BURIAL PLACE OF SUSAN HALE.

Traveling with her husband and a band of pioneers on the Oregon Trail in 1852, she drank water at a well supposedly poisoned by Indians, became ill, and died here. Her husband made a rude coffin from the lumber of his wagon and buried her. Then he returned to Omaha, brought back a marble gravestone in a wheelbarrow, and set it up himself. This stone was worn away by sand and chipped down by souvenir hunters. The grave is now marked by a stone bearing a bronze plaque and protected by a railing.

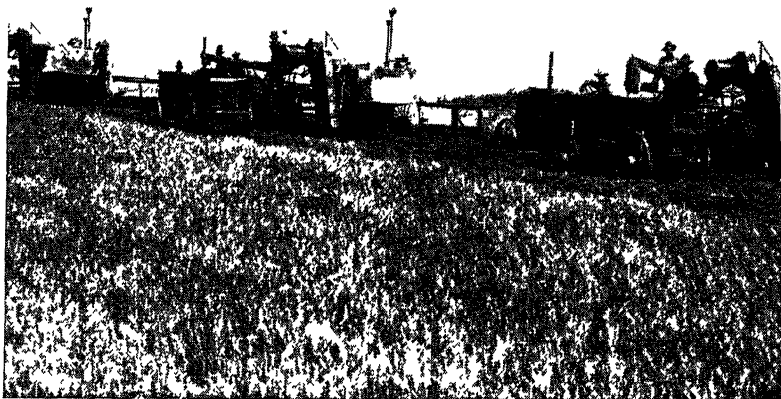
2 Straight from the junction 0.7 m. to a FARM MUSEUM, on the land of Edward Ziebarth (*adm. free; visits by appointment*). Many old relics, mostly Indian, are kept here. Ziebarth holds a State permit to excavate old graves for relics.

MINDEN, 35.4 m. (2,165 alt, 1,716 pop.), seat of Kearney County, was founded by five men who conceived the idea of forming a town while working together in a broomcorn field September 1875. Each bought one quarter-section of land at the center of the county. Joe Hull, originator of the idea, paid the Union Pacific \$3.75 an acre. Town sites and lots were sold in 1876. The county seat was moved here from Lowell in 1878. The town was named for Minden, Germany, home of the town's first postmaster.

On the eastern side of the town square once stood a bullet-scarred frame shack, known to cowboys, settlers, and sheriffs of the early days as the Prairie Home Restaurant. It was the scene of many fights. The building was later torn down to make room for the construction of the new post-office.

Minden has a plant manufacturing automobile repair tools and a publishing house printing review and examination books for schools.

West of the courthouse is the BETHANY OLD PEOPLE'S HOME (*visiting hours, 2-5, 7-8 p.m. daily*). It consists of the Borgaard Memorial and two smaller frame buildings to accommodate guests. The home was founded in 1920 by the Rev. J. P. Jansen for men and women 65 years of age or



COMBINES AT WORK

older, and is operated by a Lutheran board of trustees on a non-profit basis.

One block east of the square is CITY PARK (*benches and tables*).

AXTELL, 45.5 m. (2,222 alt., 328 pop.), often called the town of windmills, is a Swedish settlement.

On the eastern edge of town several yellow brick buildings, forming a small village, are visible (R) from the highway. This is the BETHPHAGE MISSION (*visiting hours 1-4 p.m. on Tues., Wed., and Thurs.*), a charitable institution for epileptics, feeble-minded, and destitute persons. It was founded February 19, 1913, by the Rev. K. G. William Dahl, and is controlled by the Augustana Synod of the Lutheran Church. The average number of inmates cared for annually is 110, from 21 States.

West of Axtell the highway crosses the TRI-COUNTY CANAL, part of the power project in this area.

HOLDREGE, 58.7 m. (2,237 alt., 3,262 pop.), seat of Phelps County, was named for George W. Holdrege, master builder of the C. B. & Q. R.R. A memorial to him was unveiled July 28, 1928. The town site, platted in 1885, was first settled by a group of Scandinavians. When the people of the county voted to move the seat here from Phelps Center, the latter town refused to give up its records. A wagonload of Holdrege citizens descended upon Phelps Center and seized them.

Surrounded by low hills bordering the Platte Valley, Holdrege has a mill, an ice plant, a foundry, and a 16-acre CITY PARK. An ORPHANS' HOME in the western part of town was founded in 1883 by Alex Nordin, a bachelor pastor at Phelps Center, who had adopted three motherless children.

When Stokowski conducted his symphony orchestra here on his 1936 tour, he was impressed by the large number of persons who came from distant places to hear him. One of his audience, a boy of 17, traveled 210 miles, partly on foot, to hear the concert.

OXFORD, 84.6 *m.* (2,077 alt., 1,155 pop.), is the scene of the Oxford Fall Festival, held the last week in August. The town is at the eastern junction with State 3 (*see Tour 11*); and between this point and Culbertson US 6 and State 3 are united.

CAMBRIDGE, 114.5 *m.* (2,261 alt., 1,203 pop.), has had four names, the others being Scratchpot, Pickleville, and Northwood. Cambridge history includes a prairie fire, a diphtheria epidemic when the nearest doctor was 13 miles away, an Indian scare, and a grasshopper plague. The town has never had a saloon, though liquor was sold here as early as 1873. It has had a steady growth since the pioneer days. The region is noted for its purebred-cattle ranches.

A marker has been erected to show the high-water mark of the flood of 1935.

At 118 *m.* on US 6 is a junction with a dirt road.

Right on this road to the BOHEMIAN MONUMENT, 0.5 *m.*, near Richmond Canyon, marking the spot where an emigrant party of nine Bohemian families, numbering 17 persons, were almost all drowned when a cloudburst sent a 15-foot wall of water down the canyon. One man, alert to the danger, rescued two of his children by carrying them up the side of the hill. When he returned for his wife and other children, he found that they had been swept away. Only five bodies were ever found, and these were buried in Cambridge Cemetery. The monument was dedicated on May 4, 1924, anniversary of the disaster.

MCCOOK, 139.8 *m.* (2,509 alt., 6,688 pop.), seat of Red Willow County, is a railroad town and farmers' trading center. The heavy loam soil of the Republican Valley produces great quantities of corn and alfalfa. McCook is the division point on the main line of the Burlington Route between Omaha and Denver. The railroad employs 420 men in its shops, roundhouse, and station. The town also has a meat packing plant. The original settlement, consisting of a post office and a few straggling buildings, was called Fairview. During a railroad boom in 1882 a hundred buildings sprang up within a month, and the town was renamed for Maj. Gen. Alexander McDowell McCook. The town enjoyed another boom between 1920 and 1930, when its population increased more than 50 per cent.

On Main St., opposite the City Park, is the two-story stuccoed HOME OF GEORGE W. NORRIS, born in Sandusky County, Ohio, on July 11, 1861. He taught school to earn the money to study law, was admitted to the bar in 1883, moved to Nebraska two years later, and soon entered politics. He served three terms as county attorney and was judge of a district court from 1895 until 1902, when he was elected to the House of Representatives. He was re-elected as Representative each term until 1913, when he became a Senator; he has been re-elected three times to the Senate. Senator Norris, though nominally a Republican, has been an independent. He was one of the small number of Senators to vote against the entrance of the

United States into the World War. Throughout his career he has worked for the advancement of direct government; he wrote the Constitutional Amendment abolishing the lame-duck session of the National Congress, and also the amendment to the Nebraska Constitution establishing the unicameral legislature. He has been a consistent advocate of public development and ownership of power facilities and fathered the act establishing the Tennessee Valley Authority.

CITY PARK, on Main St., 3 blocks from the downtown district, has a bandstand and fountains. An ATHLETIC PARK, in the eastern part of the town, has fields for baseball, softball, and football.

In KELLEY PARK (*ovens, swimming pool, tennis courts*), is MCCOOK JUNIOR COLLEGE, 1205 E. 3d St., built by Mrs. Maude McMillen as a memorial to her son. It has an enrollment of 140 students. WPA labor was employed in the construction of the STADIUM nearby. Directly northeast of the college building is the GOLF COURSE (*9 holes, open to public, fee 50¢ a day*), which covers 480 acres. The RED WILLOW COUNTY FAIR-GROUNDS are in the northwestern part of town.

(At the eastern limits of McCook the time changes from central standard to mountain time.)

McCook is at the junction with US 183 (*see Tour 8B*).

At 153.4 m. State 3 (*see Tour 11*) branches south from US 6.

At 154.9 m. is a junction with State 17, a graveled road.

Right on this road to HAYES CENTER, 22.8 m. (229 pop.), seat of Hayes County, named for President Hayes.

Right from the main street of Hayes Center 10 m. to the DUKE ALEXIS RECREATION GROUNDS, on the banks of Red Willow Creek. In 1872 the Grand Duke Alexis of Russia, 22-year-old brother of the reigning Czar, came here to hunt buffalo, in company with "Buffalo Bill" Cody, General Sheridan, and Army officers from Fort McPherson.

A camp was made in a sheltered bend of the Red Willow Creek. Spotted Tail, chief of the Sioux, was encamped with a hundred warriors nearby, and Buffalo Bill induced them to engage in the hunt and do a war dance. The hunt was elaborately planned, and with Buffalo Bill as chief guide, the Grand Duke succeeded in killing several buffalo.

A number of years ago the old camp site was identified, and every August a picnic is held here under the shade trees.

WAUNETA, 183.6 m. (2,938 alt., 793 pop.), was named for the song *Juanita*. A little WATERFALL, one block from Main St., on Frenchman River, served as a refuge for several women and children during one of the early Indian raids. When reports came of the Indians' approach, the residents hurried to the falls and hid beneath the ledge of rock over which the water flows. The Indians did not think of looking there. The waterfall now operates the local light and power plant.

Wauneta, lying in a valley, with tall cottonwoods lining the main street, has the appearance of a mountain town.

The road from Wauneta leaves the river valley, passes through a short strip of sand-hill country, and enters a high tableland section.

IMPERIAL, 202.2 m. (3,281 alt., 946 pop.), seat of Chase County, is a bright-looking country town built on land once homesteaded by Thomas Mercier, who gave the town its name.

At Imperial is the junction with State 48, a graveled road.

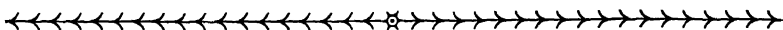
Left on this road to CHAMPION, 7.8 *m.* (100 pop.), named for Champion S. Chase, former mayor of Omaha, for whom the county is also named.

At 10 *m.* are CHAMPION LAKE RECREATION GROUNDS (*fishing*).

West of Imperial the road runs along a plateau, with sagebrush in abundance but few trees.

LAMAR, 223.6 *m.* (122 pop.), was named for Lucius Quintus Cincinnatus Lamar, Secretary of the Interior in President Cleveland's first Cabinet and later an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

At 227.5 *m.* US 6 meets the Colorado Line, runs north along the line for 0.2 miles, and turns into Colorado 15 miles east of Holyoke, Colo. (*see COLO. Tour 2*).



Tour 10

(Sidney, Iowa)—Nebraska City—Lincoln—Grand Island—Alliance—Crawford—(Ardmore, S. Dak.); State 2.

Missouri River at Nebraska City to South Dakota Line, 525.6 *m.*

The C. B. & Q. R.R. parallels this route the entire distance.

Bus service Nebraska City to Broken Bow

Graveled and oiled roadbed, with some paved stretches; open all year. On side routes roadbeds are fine, soft sand, cars must be driven at rather rapid rate to prevent wheels from settling down into sand; tires should not have more than 30 pounds of air.

Accommodations available chiefly in cities.

State 2 cuts through eastern Nebraska orchard and farm land, runs through the heart of the sand-hills between Broken Bow and Alliance, and touches the semimountainous northwestern country near Crawford. Farther west the highway runs in a general direction toward the Black Hills of South Dakota.

The central section of US 2 extends across the sand hills, and runs from the southeastern apple country to the Pine Ridge hills in the northwest.

The sand-hills were formed largely by westerly winds blowing over sandy formations in dry seasons. The process is still going on. The hills are covered with fine-grained, wind-blown sand, mixed with coarse gravel and pebbles at the edges of the sand belts. The hills, most of them rounded in shape, are not large. The smaller hills, when close together, have been likened to "so many swells of the ocean which have become motionless or frozen." Or they appear petrified, according to some observers.



BLOWOUT WITH YUCCA ROOTS

A realistic picture of the region appears in *Old Jules*, a biography written by Mari Sandoz, daughter of a sand hills pioneer (see *LITERATURE*).

"Blowouts" in the topographical, not the motoring sense, are peculiar to the sand hill country. These depressions are caused by cattle tramping over grassless sandy soil, which becomes loose and is blown away by the wind. The harder and more frequent the wind, the larger the holes.

The few streams in the sand-hills are spring-fed. Little or no storm water feeds them, for there is little surface drainage. Much of the rainfall percolates through the sand to become ground water, of which there is more than the amount of rainfall would suggest. The quality of the water varies; some is potable, but much is slightly alkaline. Although the water-table is rather deep in several places, farmers find it possible to pump an adequate supply of water by means of windmills, which are a prominent feature of the landscape.

In this region large herds of sleek, white-faced cattle are seen, usually near a windmill, stream, or water hole.

Along the roads are many home-made mail boxes, fashioned of cream cans, wooden boxes, or similar objects. They are usually rather large, as mail is delivered in batches two or three times a week. Spaced at irregular intervals, the boxes frequently are miles from a house and the only sign of its existence.

Living habits of the people in the region are reminiscent of pioneer

days. People still wear long-robed coats, often of fur. Wagons with long boxes are seen, flocks of turkeys with bells to indicate their whereabouts, piles of cow "chips" for use as fuel. Except for large ranch buildings, houses are plain and simply constructed.

The ranch house, barns, and other structures are often scattered over a large area and usually lie in a valley near a small spring, creek, or other source of water. There is almost always a corral, where horses and cattle are kept and branding is done. The typical sand hill ranch house is a low, rambling, one-story building, with rooms added here and there as needed. Buildings are frequently protected on the north and west by a windbreak of pine, cedar, or cottonwood planted in rows.

Early in the spring the valleys between the sand dunes are covered with innumerable wild flowers of many kinds, rich in color. They thrive on sand apparently and usually die when transplanted to more fertile soil. Grasses native to this region range from the small bunch grass of the sandy regions to the tall, wide-bladed varieties of the hay meadows. The grasses, unusually deep in color, make good summer pasturage.

On the side roads are cattle guards—a series of short, parallel slats of wood or iron placed flat on the road over a trench. This home-made device to catch the hoofs of the cattle prevents them from leaving the ranch and roaming the highway.

Section a. MISSOURI RIVER to GRAND ISLAND, 151.4 m. State 2.

The route begins at the Missouri River toll bridge, 0 m. (40¢ for car, 5¢ for each passenger), 15 miles west of Sidney, Iowa.

NEBRASKA CITY, 1.2 m. (961 alt., 7,230 pop.) (*see Tour 1*), is at the junction with US 73-75 (*see Tour 1*).

West of Nebraska City State 2 runs near what is known as the Steam Wagon Road (*see TRANSPORTATION*). Major J. R. Brown was the inventor of the "steam wagon." Built by John A. Reed, of New York, to haul freight from Nebraska City to Denver, the machine consisted of four engines of 10 horsepower each. The two front wheels, with which it was steered, were 6 feet in diameter. The two rear wheels, or drivers, were 12 feet in diameter, with an 18-inch tread. The steam wagon, it was claimed, could run 8 hours on a cord of wood as fuel.

After several tests, all under adverse conditions, the "steam wagon" left Nebraska City for Denver on July 22, 1862. Several weeks were allowed for the trip because of the condition of the road. A series of regular trips was scheduled. Eight miles west of Nebraska City, however, a crank on the driving shaft broke. New York was the nearest place for repairs. The Civil War was raging; Major Brown learned his family had been captured in an Indian outbreak and his property destroyed; he was called into service; and before operations were resumed the locomotive was running on the Steam Wagon Road.

The highway passes through the apple-orchard country of southeastern Nebraska, with its rolling hills and green valleys.

DUNBAR, 10.4 m. (1,044 alt., 292 pop.), was a station on Br. & Hol-

laday's Overland stage line years before the railroad reached the town. For 10 years the town was known as Wilson's, for a ranch of that name; then its name was changed to Dennison and soon afterward to Dunbar, for the Dunbar brothers, Thomas and John, each of whom owned land near the townsite.

At 18.5 *m.* is the junction with State 50, graveled.

Left on this road to SYRACUSE, 0.8 *m.* (1,048 alt., 947 pop.), an outgrowth of Nursery Hill, a stopping place on the Overland Stage Line from Nebraska City to Colorado. When the Midland Pacific R.R., now the Burlington, established a station here, the two stores in Nursery Hill were moved here. Laid out in 1871, Syracuse was named by George Warner for his former home in New York State.

UNADILLA, 23.4 *m.* (1,078 alt., 194 pop.), platted in 1870 and settled in 1872, was named for Unadilla (Ind., *place of meeting*), N. Y. Anxious to attract the railroad, the townspeople built a stockyard and a depot in 1874.

PALMYRA, 31.6 *m.* (1,142 alt., 344 pop.), was laid out in 1870 on the land of the Rev. J. N. Taggart, who gave half of his farm for a town site. His daughter named the town for the ancient city of Palmyra in Asia Minor.

LINCOLN, 54.8 *m.* (1,148 alt., 79,592 pop.) (*see LINCOLN*).

Points of Interest: State Capitol, University of Nebraska, State Historical Museum, Nebraska Wesleyan University, Home of W. J. Bryan, and others.

Lincoln is at the junction with US 77 (*see Tour 2*) and US 6 (*see Tour 9*).

West of the city there are evidences of the SALT BASIN that formerly extended over the area drained by Salt Creek. Salt was once manufactured and sold here, but efforts to develop the business on a large scale were abandoned after 1886 because the cost was too great to meet competition (*see LINCOLN*).

SEWARD, 79.7 *m.* (1,442 alt., 2,737 pop.), seat of Seward County, is a thriving, tree-shaded trade town whose housetops are visible a mile before the highway enters the square. The white rounded dome of the SEWARD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, built in 1905, looms above clusters of trees. CONCORDIA TEACHERS COLLEGE (R), established in 1894, is a German Lutheran seminary in which teachers are trained for work in the parochial schools west of the Mississippi. Its nine buildings occupy more than 20 acres in the northeastern part of Seward.

Seward was named for Seward County, which in turn was named for William H. Seward (1801-1872), Secretary of State under Lincoln. First named for General Greene, of Missouri, the county was renamed when Greene joined the Confederacy during the Civil War.

The town site of Seward was surveyed in 1868 and its development assured when the Midland Pacific R.R. (now the Burlington) reached the town on March 1, 1873. For three years Seward was its terminal, which stimulated growth as a trading center for local farmers. Seward's enterprises include flour milling, poultry farming, and brick making.

An OPEN AIR AMPHITHEATER, surrounded by a native rock wall, has

a stage also built of native rock. At CITY PARK, embracing 40 acres on the Blue River, are a swimming pool, grandstand, ball fields, race track, and fine picnic grounds. Here the Seward County Fair is held each fall.

YORK, 108.6 m. (1,634 alt., 5,712 pop.), seat of York County, was founded by Ghost and Sherwood, agents for the South Platte Land Company. The town was platted in October 1869, and incorporated in 1872. Even the severe grasshoppers plague of 1874 did not halt the town's growth. That year an academy was started. In 1877 the Burlington & Missouri River R.R. was completed to York. In 1880 the nearby settlement of New York was added to the city.

York is the trading center of a wide agricultural region, and much of its business is related to farming. The city has a brick and tile plant; a foundry and engine works manufacturing feed grinders, sash weights, structural iron, hay tools, castings, pulleys, and elevator machinery; a music publishing house; factory producing medicine for livestock, feeds, serums, and dips.

YORK COLLEGE, founded in 1890 by the United Brethren in Christ, has an 11-acre campus in the northeastern part of town. The college is coeducational and has an enrollment of 400. The NEBRASKA I.O.O.F. HOME, 20 Cowan Ave., for members and their families, is situated on a 160-acre farm; children living in the home attend York schools. MOTHERS' JEWELS' HOME, 21st St. and Division Ave., an orphanage supported by the Methodist Episcopal Church, has a 170-acre farm and accommodates 100 children. A new fireproof nursery has recently been added.

EAST HILL PARK, HARRISON PARK, and CENTRAL PARK afford recreational facilities.

Between York and Grand Island the country is low and flat, with few trees.

At 110.5 m. (L) is the STATE REFORMATORY FOR WOMEN (*visiting day, fourth Thurs. of each month*), consisting of three buildings, enclosed by a wire fence. The institution opened on May 8, 1920; in May 1933 women prisoners in the State penitentiary were transferred here. The grounds include a farm of 235 acres.

As the highway enters AURORA, 130.6 m. (1,794 alt., 2,715 pop.), seat of Hamilton County, it passes tree-studded STREETER PARK (R).

Aurora's history dates from the spring of 1871, when seven men of Chariton, Iowa, decided to start a town in Hamilton County, Nebr. To this end each gave \$30 to one David Stone, who set out alone to discover whether land could be obtained by homestead or pre-emption. He selected a site here, and though the original plan failed, a town was eventually founded. Named for Aurora, Ill., it was incorporated on July 4, 1877.

In the Hamilton County COURTHOUSE is a MUSEUM containing pioneer relics (*adm. free, open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.*).

Left from Aurora on State 14, a smooth graveled road, to DEEPWELL RANCH MONUMENT (L), 4.6 m., marking the site of a well and a relay station of the Nebraska City Cut-off of the Oregon Trail. The monument is an old well with a barrel top. This well of pure water never failed thirsty freighters and emigrants, and the spot was a popular resting place along the trail.

At 131.7 *m.* is the junction with a dirt road.

Right on this clay road to a junction with another country road, 1 *m.*; L. here to SPAFFORD GRAVE, 1.5 *m.*, in a grove of trees. The inscription reads: "Rev. S. W. Spafford Died Nov. 9, 1876 Aged 47 years 8 months and 11 days.

"Farewell my wife my children all
From you a father, Christ doth call,
Mourn not for me, it is in vain,
To call me to your sight again.
Lincoln Marble Works."

'At 149.8 *m.* is the junction with State 70 (*see Tour 4*).

GRAND ISLAND, 151.4 *m.* (1,864 alt., 18,041 pop.) (*see GRAND ISLAND*).

Points of Interest: Catholic Cathedral, American Crystal Sugar Company, Pioneers Park, Memorial Park, Grand Island Airport.

Grand Island is at the junction with US 281 (*see Tour 4*) and US 30 (*see Tour 8*).

Section b. GRAND ISLAND to SOUTH DAKOTA LINE, 373.6 m.
State 2.

The route proceeds west from GRAND ISLAND, 0 *m.*

At 5 *m.* is a junction with a graveled road.

Right on this road to the U S CENTRAL MONITORING STATION (*open at all hours*), 0.5 *m.*, established in 1930 as one of the field and monitoring stations of the Federal Communications Commission. The site was selected because of its position near the geographical center of the United States and because of the absence of any nearby transmitting stations. The purpose of the station is to keep broadcasting stations on their assigned frequencies and to maintain a constant check on the quality and type of programs being broadcast. The grounds comprise 60 acres, dotted with antennae of various types for directive reception from all points of the compass. Highly specialized technicians carry on the work day and night.

At 18 *m.* is the junction with State 60.

Right on State 60, a graveled road, to CAIRO, 1.8 *m.* (1,954 alt., 425 pop.), named for Cairo, Egypt. Some of the streets bear Egyptian names. The town, founded in the spring of 1886, is a shipping point for wild hay, alfalfa, grain, and livestock. The inhabitants are largely German.

At 7.3 *m.* is the junction with State 58, a graveled road; L. here 5.3 *m.* to BOELUS (246 pop.), said to be named for the Belus, a small river in Palestine described by Pliny. According to tradition its fine sand led the Phoenicians to the invention of glass.

Left 2 *m.* from the main street of Boelus on a sandy country road to BOELUS DAM (*adm. free, fishing permitted*), on the Loup River, owned by the Central Power Company.

RAVENNA, 37.4 *m.* (2,000 alt., 1,559 pop.), first called Beaver Creek, was later named Ravenna for the city in Italy. Its older streets have Italian names. Grand Avenue, the main street, was formerly called Appian Way.

One of the earliest settlers of the northern part of Buffalo County was Erastus Smith, who settled in 1874 on the site of present Ravenna. He brought with him a small herd of registered shorthorn cattle, the first in

the county. Numerous Indian relics and human bones of an earlier period have been found in the vicinity of Ravenna.

The town's large AUDITORIUM was built in 1934. Just over the brow of the hill, near the Junior High School, is WOODLAND PARK, a wooded area of much natural beauty.

At 42.3 *m.* is the junction with State 45, a graveled road.

Right on State 45 to LOUP CITY, 15.6 *m.* (2,091 alt., 1,446 pop.), seat of Sherman County, named for its situation in the Middle Loup Valley. Settled in 1873, this vicinity had been occupied by the Skidi band of the Pawnee Indians. Loup is the French translation of skidi (*ind*, *wolf*).

At the end of Main St. is JENNER'S ZOOLOGICAL AND AMUSEMENT PARK (*adm.* 25¢, *children* 10¢; 8 *a.m.* to *sundown*), offering a zoo, playground, and picnic grounds. In the MUMMY CAVE (*adm.* 10¢, *children* 5¢) are more than 10,000 articles, chiefly East Indian and African, including 17 cases of Egyptian mummies.

Right from Loup City 4 *m.* on a dirt road to DEAD HORSE CANYON, named in 1873 when 28 horses belonging to soldier scouts died in a blizzard here.

At Loup City is the junction with State 16.

Left on this road 2 *m.* to the LOUP CITY RECREATION GROUNDS, 30 acres of land around a 20-acre lake stocked with bullheads, crappies, and sunfish.

At 47.4 *m.* is the southeastern junction with US 83 (*see Tour 5*); US 83 and State 2 are united as one route for 30.7 miles.

HAZARD, 50.4 *m.* (2,109 alt., 148 pop.), was to have been called Bunnell. When it was found that this name had been pre-empted by another town, a conference was called to choose a new one. One delegate suggested that they "hazard some new name." "That's it," another said. "We'll call it Hazard."

At 52.3 *m.* are the LITCHFIELD RECREATION GROUNDS (L).

ANSLEY, 76.6 *m.* (2,310 alt., 817 pop.), founded in 1886, lies among the hills of a rich alfalfa region.

At 78.1 *m.* is the northwestern junction of US 83 (*see Tour 5*).

BROKEN BOW, 94.7 *m.* (2,480 alt., 2,715 pop.), platted in 1882, is a shipping center for livestock, hay, and grain. It has factories making cigars and brooms, two hotels, and an airport. After the Post Office Department had rejected several proposed names, Wilson Hewitt, a homesteader, suggested its present name on finding a broken bow on an old Indian burial ground.

At 103.9 *m.* is MERNA (2,671 alt., 439 pop.).

Right from Merna on State 80 to the 60-acre VICTORIA SPRINGS STATE PARK, 10 *m.* (*adm.* free; *cabins, picnicking facilities, playground equipment*), established in 1923.

Victoria Creek flows diagonally across the northwest part of the park and into the Middle Loup River. Springs in the creek are unlike those found elsewhere in the State. No two are chemically alike, for their waters become impregnated with chemicals from the different sandstones through and over which they course.

In the early seventies Charles R. Mathews, of Virginia, and Oscar Smith, of Pennsylvania, settled here. Victoria Valley soon became known for its beauty and its springs. Smith built sleeping quarters over his store to accommodate visitors. Today the mineral waters are used extensively for their curative properties.

A crescent-shaped LAKE (*boats, bathhouse*) in the bend of the creek, fed by hundreds of springs, is stocked with bass, crappies, bullheads, and sunfish.

Left from the park 1.5 *m.* to the CEDAR CANYONS of north-central Custer County. This area covers from five to eight sections of land in a fan-like projection



EARLY MORNING, SANDHILLS

toward the north and at one time formed one of the largest and highest hills in the loess plains. The old Tum Roberts or Burris Brothers farm is within a few rods of the canyons. (*Information concerning entrances from superintendent of Victoria Park*)

There are no streams through the canyons. A few cottonwood, oak, boxelder, willow, and wild plum trees grow on the canyon floors, together with sumac, chokecherry, and buffalo-berry. Yucca, wild rose, and morning glory are plentiful.

Animals found here include cottontail, and jackrabbits, grey squirrel, coyote, badger, and several smaller animals. Birds are also seen here in large numbers; among others, magpies, blackbirds, meadowlarks, prairie owls, bobwhites, bluejays, goldfinches, cardinals, brown thrashers, Arkansas kingbirds, and doves. Birds seldom seen in other Nebraska regions are found here: the cedar waxwing, the great horned owl, the black eagle, and the bald eagle.

At LINSBERRY, 126.7 *m.* (2,708 alt., 4 pop.), the time changes from central standard to mountain.

At 135.1 *m.* the highway crosses the Dismal River, along which Febold Feboldson, the mythical Swede, had his home and performed his wonders (*see FOLKLORE*).

West of DUNNING, 135.6 *m.* (2,624 alt., 212 pop.), is the Halsey Division of the Nebraska National Forest (*see below*). For a distance of 20 miles the highway follows the north bank of the Middle Loup River, and the boundary of the forest lies just south of the river.

HALSEY, 145.6 *m.* (2,698 alt., 130 pop.), was named in honor of Halsey Yates, of Lincoln, a member of the party that surveyed the railroad through this district.

Left from Halsey on a graveled road to the entrance to the **HALSEY DIVISION OF NEBRASKA NATIONAL FOREST**, 1 m. (*Adm. free; picnicking facilities; cars must be equipped with mufflers, and cut-outs must be kept closed on hay roads; no smoking allowed; violators subject to prosecution*) The Nebraska National Forest, established in 1902 during the Presidency of Theodore Roosevelt, comprises two large areas in the north-central part of the State, the Halsey Division and the Niobrara Division (*see Tour 7*). The forest is also a wildlife refuge.

The terrain chosen for this program of forestation was outwardly unpromising. The remote geologic upheaval that raised the Rocky Mountain system exposed large areas of Tertiary sandstone in the Dakotas, Wyoming, Nebraska, Kansas, and bordering regions. The most extensive exposure was this fan-shaped area in north-central Nebraska. Early ranchers in the region were handicapped by the absence of wood, which had to be brought from remote distances. To meet this need and to further the reclamation of the land, the program of forestation was undertaken.

The Halsey Division, which includes the **BESSEY NURSERY**, comprises 90,000 acres in Thomas and Blaine Counties, of which 21,122 acres have been planted (July 1936). In 1903, 70,000 jack pine and 30,000 western yellow pine seedlings were planted, and the original forest is now well on its way toward maturity. Approximately 2,500,000 seedlings from this nursery are transplanted every year, chiefly to the Niobrara Division of the forest.

The forest contains many varieties of trees, hackberry, green ash, red cedar, cottonwood, willow, and aspen. Non-native varieties include jack pine, American elm, willow, white fir, blue spruce, honey locust, black locust, catalpa, and several other broadleaf trees.

The mule deer is the only big game animal found in the forest; small game animals are rabbits, mink, muskrats, badgers, and squirrels. Among game birds are pheasants, ducks, quail, grouse, and Hungarian partridges (introduced). With the exception of the coyote, which may be trapped in the winter on permits issued through the local game warden, all animals are protected.

With its false-front frame buildings, its cowboys and ranchers in ten-gallon hats, **MULLEN**, 188.9 m. (524 pop.), seat of Hooker County, is a typical town of midwestern Nebraska and the sand-hills country. Over the general store, in a large hall equipped with faded scenery, bare walls, church pews, and kitchen chairs, is the Mullen movie house, showing pictures several nights a week.

West of Mullen State 2 is called the Potash Highway (*see below*).

At 192.8 m. is a junction with a dirt road.

Left on this tortuous sandy road, to the **SITE OF THE NORTH AND CODY RANCH**, 30 m. (*Road is hard to travel, with many crossings, and requires a guide; inquire locally.*) Thousands of acres of grassy sand dunes and broad expanses of level plains, once the range of buffalo, deer, and elk, were included in this ranch, established in 1877 by three old scouts of the plains—**MaJ. Frank North**, **Capt. Luther North**, and **William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody**. These men did much to eliminate the numerous cattle thieves who infested this region after the Indian wars were ended. The North and Cody Ranch was always open to travelers, and many notable people were entertained here.

The Dismal River flows through picturesque country, from the lakes in Hooker and McPherson Counties, to the Middle Loup River. Along its banks are plum thickets and chokecherries.

HYANNIS, 227.3 m. (3,738 alt., 384 pop.), seat of Grant County, is a hilly and rather unusual ranch town.

Although they are not of the two-gun, liquor-drinking type described in fiction, the ranchers and cowboys of the vicinity still walk the streets of Hyannis in ten-gallon hats, riding boots, spurs, and chaps. Small rodeos are held here every year.

Right from the main street of Hyannis, past the depot on a dirt road, to the FRYE LAKE RECREATION GROUNDS, 3 m. (*adm free, camping and fishing permitted*).

Between Hyannis and Alliance is sand-hill country, with here and there a lake of deep ultramarine lying in a pocket of yellow dunes.

ANTIOCH, 271.4 m. (147 pop.), with its abandoned buildings and deserted walls, suggests a war-torn village. But it was peace, not war, that ruined the town. There was a great potash boom during the World War. Antioch suddenly became a bustling town of 2,500, with five factories working 24 hours a day, producing potash by the carload from the dry beds of sand-hill lakes. With the end of hostilities the boom collapsed as abruptly as it had begun. A few dilapidated houses and the ruins of five large potash factories, with rusting retorts, boilers, and steel skeletons scattered about them, remain as reminder of former prosperity.

Many of the smaller houses were moved to Alliance, 15 miles away (*see below*). The tar-paper shacks of the potash workers were dismantled and used by the ranchers. Brick salvaged from the towering chimney of one of the potash factories went to build the largest garage in Hyannis (*see above*). Only one impressive house stands—the big stucco home built by a factory superintendent during the boom. At the height of prosperity the town had voted bonds for a \$100,000 school building; a superintendent was engaged at \$2,500 a year on a three-year contract. Before the close of his first year there were scarcely enough pupils to occupy the attention of a single teacher.

ALLIANCE, 286 6 m. (3,960 alt., 6,669 pop.), seat of Box Butte County, lies west of the sand-hills on a high treeless tableland, almost all of which is tillable. The town is the trading center of an extensive farming area, shipping many carloads of seed potatoes annually.

Alliance is a relatively new town, settled in 1888 when the Burlington Lines, which owned the site, advertised a great land sale and ran special excursion trains for those who came to buy. Previously, a small settlement known as Grand Lake had been established nearby.

CITY PARK, one block E. of 9th St., is used as a Government testing ground for the introduction of new plants of various kinds, and has a swimming pool. In the park is the SOD HOUSE MUSEUM (*open Sundays, adm. free*), a copy of the pioneer houses of the vicinity, containing many relics of earlier days.

The Panhandle Stampede, a rodeo characteristic of the Old West, is held here annually for three days during the last week in June. The local cavalry troop sponsors a horse show and wrestling match, and provides a band. An annual Race Meet is held here the first week in September.

Alliance is at the junction with State 19 (*see Tour 6*).

1. Right from Alliance on 10th St. and its continuation, a sandy road, to the ALLIANCE CEMETERY, 1.9 m., in the southeastern part of which are the GRAVES OF JULES SANDOZ AND HIS WIFE, marked by a headstone and a monument. A man of imagination and unusual energy, Sandoz was a pioneer horticulturist of the sand-hills (*see LITERATURE*).

2. Left from Alliance on a dirt road to the POINT OF ROCKS, 18 m., a camping

place on the old Sidney-Deadwood Trail. The cool springs on the south side of the point provided the only water for miles around, and made the point a rendezvous for early travelers.

North of Alliance State 2 leaves the sand hills and enters more rugged, semimountainous country.

HEMINGFORD, 306.4 m. (4,259 alt., 1,025 pop.), was founded in 1880 by Joseph Hare, a pioneer editor, who built a sod house on the present site of Shindler's store. By 1887 the town had two newspapers: the *Gleaner* and the *Box Butte Rustler*. Supplies and mail came overland from Hay Springs, 40 miles distant. Prairie fires were a constant menace, often requiring the energies of the whole town to check them. In 1889 the railroad reached Hemingford, which was incorporated in 1890 and the following year became the county seat, remaining so until supplanted by Alliance in 1899.

The center of a potato-growing country, Hemingford has several large potato warehouses, equipped with sorters, graders, and conveyors, all electrically operated. Dry-farming methods have been successfully applied in the surrounding territory.

West of Hemingford the road traverses a level tableland dotted in summer with fields of potatoes, wheat, oats, rye, and some corn. A rust-resistant variety of wheat is grown here, though the elevation makes the season short. There are only a few small trees on the Box Butte high plains to relieve the monotony of the scene.

At 325.8 m. State 2 crosses the Niobrara River, stocked with trout and offering good fishing.

North of the river State 2 enters grazing country with a few farms on the occasional level stretches.

At 337.7 m., the highway enters the Pine Ridge and descends BRYAN CANYON, where there are many odd rock formations. The slope of the canyon is steep, but the gradient of the winding road is not.

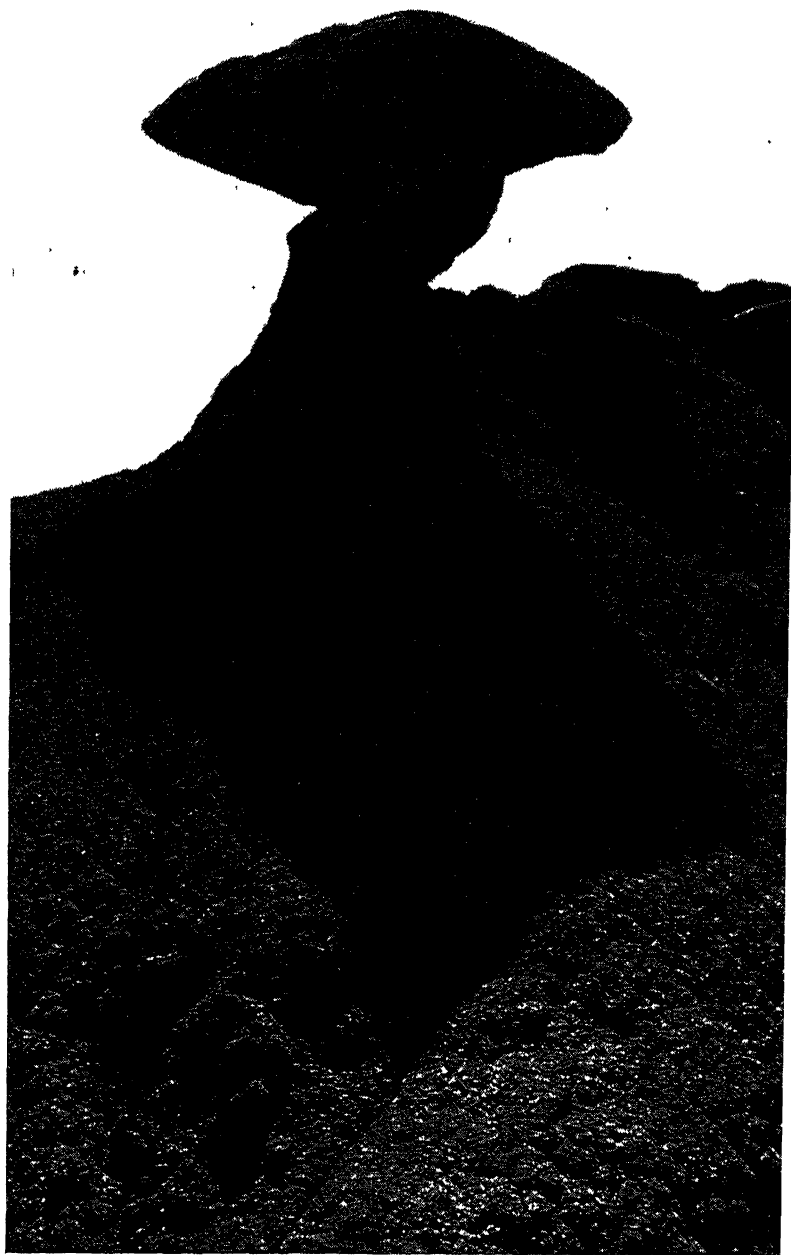
In the White River Valley the highway passes Spring Creek, stocked with trout. Water from Spring Creek, fed by springs, supplies the fish hatchery in Crawford.

CRAWFORD, 345.1 m. (3,673 alt., 1,703 pop.) (*see Tour 7*) is at the junction with US 20 (*see Tour 7*).

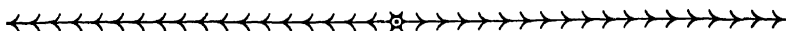
At 353 m. is COTTONWOOD CREEK, the camping ground of Chief Crazy Horse and his band of Sioux as they came to Fort Robinson to surrender in April 1877, thus ending the Indian war of 1876-1877 (*see Tour 7*).

Northwest of this point the highway enters the BADLANDS of the State, and passes TOADSTOOL PARK, 366 m., a field of gigantic stone mushrooms, produced by the erosion of soft clay from under a stratum of sandstone and gumbo soil, leaving columns of clay capped with wide stone tops. The park is at the edge of the Adelia Badlands, the larger of two areas of this kind. Many fossils are found in the vicinity.

At 373.6 m. State 2 crosses the South Dakota Line, 3 miles south of Ardmore, S. Dak.



TOADSTOOL PARK



Tour II

(Rockport, Mo.)—Brownville—Beatrice—Franklin—Trenton—(Wray, Colo.) ; State 3.

Missouri River at Brownville to Colorado Line, 386.3 m.

Between Auburn and Beatrice, and Guide Rock and Colorado Line, the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy R.R. parallels the route; between Beatrice and Nelson, the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Ry. Bus service, Beatrice to Superior, one line, Oxford to Culbertson.

Graveled roadbed, except for a few stretches of oiled road and concrete paving. Accommodations limited except in larger towns; hotels chiefly in cities.

State 3 passes between the orchards along the Missouri River, through the southeastern and south central farming sections of the State, and through the semi-arid plains of the southwestern part. For 200 miles it runs through the Republican River Valley, a region subject to flood during heavy rain.

Section a. BROWNVILLE to OXFORD, 248.3 m.

At 0 m. the highway crosses the Missouri River, the Missouri-Nebraska boundary, by ferry (75¢ for car; \$1 for truck; 24-hour service).

BROWNVILLE, 0.3 m. (893 alt., 426 pop.), is now a mere shadow of the bustling steamboat town of 3,000 it once was. The seat of Nemaha County for 30 years, it cherished hopes of becoming the State capital.

The Oto Indians surrendered title to their lands here on March 15, 1854. A few months later Richard Brown, of Oregon, Mo., crossed the Missouri River in a canoe and founded Brownville, which soon began to grow as feverishly as any boom town. A road was laid out from Brownville to Marshall's Trading Point on the Big Blue River. The first flatboat ferry, *Nemaha County*, was put in operation in the spring of 1855 by Richard Brown. During the next two years settlers came in increasing numbers; within one week 50 families crossed the river to settle here. Situated on the Missouri River, Brownville presented a busy scene. Boats, crowded with homeseekers and fortune hunters, chugged slowly up to the wharf, where townspeople gathered to look over the new arrivals. Disembarking, the immigrants huddled about campfires in family groups, talking, singing, resting, many of them preparing for the long journey westward. Oxen and horses moved restlessly. Some pioneers stayed here; many businesses were established and sidewalks laid out. At one time five steam ferries made stops here, the last of which, the *Belle of Brownville*, was large enough to accommodate 22 teams and wagons.

Then came the decline. Other river towns became railroad terminals; banking difficulties increased hard times; the county seat was moved to

Auburn in 1885. As people moved away, merchants closed their stores; the long main street dwindled to one block.

With the discovery that fruit trees and vines flourished in the vicinity Brownville in time became the trade and marketing center of an orchard region growing apples, peaches, pears, and grapes.

The sturdy red-brick dwellings built long ago today appear old-fashioned. The first large frame building erected here, known in 1856 as the FAIRBANKS HOTEL, is now a rooming house. The CITY PARK is on the site of the old land-office building. The CHRISTIAN CHURCH, built in 1901, supplanted an older church of 1855, the first in Brownville and probably in the State. The SCHOOLHOUSE of 1867 is still in use.

The SITE OF THE ENLISTMENT OF COMPANY C, First Regiment of Nebraska, enrolled on June 8, 1861, is marked by a rock at First and Main Sts. Nearby is a CIVIL WAR CANNON presented to the town by the Government.

WALNUT GROVE is the last resting place of many pioneers, Civil War soldiers, and half-breed Indians. Gov. Robert W. Furnas (1824-1905) is buried here. Furnas was a leader in Nebraska agriculture and horticulture for 50 years, and took the initiative in founding the State Board of Agriculture and State Historical Society. The first alfalfa grown in Nebraska was raised in the Furnas front yard in 1871. It was then called Lucerne, for the town in Switzerland where it originated.

Left from the old cemetery on a winding road to LOOKOUT POINT, once an Indian observation post, offering a far view of the countryside, including a corner of Missouri across the river.

AUBURN, 10.2 *m.* (1,051 alt., 3,068 pop.), is at the junction with US 73-75 (*see Tour 1*), and is in the heart of the orchard country.

TECUMSEH, 32.8 *m.* (1,114 alt., 1,829 pop.), named for the Shawnee chief, is the seat of Johnson County.

West of Tecumseh the orchards are fewer.

CRAB ORCHARD, 47.1 *m.* (1,278 alt., 238 pop.), belies its name, for it is the trade center of a farming area.

The highway crosses many small rivers and creeks, forming an almost complete water system for a large and fertile area.

At 67.7 *m.* is the junction with a graveled road.

Right on this road to the INSTITUTION FOR THE FEEBLE-MINDED, 0.6 *m.*, created by legislative act in 1885. It consists of cottages, a modern dairy, barn, laundry, storeroom, bakery, engine house, pumping station, and water standpipe. In a large measure self-supporting, the institution cares for more than 1,000 inmates.

BEATRICE, 69.2 *m.* (1,247 alt., 10,297 pop.) (*see BEATRICE*).

Points of Interest: Chautauqua Park, Beatrice Museum, Athletic Park, and others.

Beatrice is at the junction with US 77 (*see Tour 2*), and the junction with State 4.

Right on State 4, a graveled road, to the FREEMAN HOMESTEAD NATIONAL MONUMENT, 4.5 *m.*, on the first farm claimed under the General Homestead Act of May 20, 1862.

Under the Homestead Act, any man or woman of 21 years or more could secure title to 160 acres of public land by living on it for five years and paying fees of

approximately \$18. Daniel Freeman, a Union soldier home on furlough, had the distinction of filing for Homestead No. 1.

Freeman had previously established squatter's right to land here on Cub Creek where he had broken ground and built a log cabin and stable. Anxious to secure title under the new act, Freeman found himself blocked by the fact that the Brownville land office was not to open officially until January 2, 1863, a day after he had to report at his military post. At a New Year's party he happened to meet the young assistant of the land office receiver. In the course of conversation he explained his problem and gained the sympathy of the young man, who took him to the office after midnight and recorded his entry. Soldiering occupied young Freeman till 1865, when he returned with his bride, Agnes Suiter Freeman. Forging the Blue River, swollen with spring rains, they reached the wooded banks of Cub Creek and built themselves a new log cabin. Little by little they expanded their farm from the original quarter section to 840 acres, and in time replaced their cabin with a brick house, long since destroyed by fire. A frame farmhouse now occupies the site.

On March 23, 1936, Congress passed a bill, introduced by Senator George W. Norris, creating the Freeman Homestead National Monument.

On a hill overlooking the valley are the GRAVES OF DANIEL AND AGNES SUITER FREEMAN. A short distance down the hill is a marker in memory of the Freemans, a stone taken from the old State capitol when it was torn down.

West of Beatrice State 3 passes through rich farming territory, in which wheat and corn are the chief crops.

Almost every foot of the ground for miles around Beatrice was at one time rutted by the heavy wheels of ox-drawn covered wagons. The oldest Oregon Trail, that from Independence, Mo., ran straight west for about 40 miles, then northwestward across the Kansas River and the Big Blue, and along the Little Blue toward the low divide that separated the streams flowing into the Missouri and its tributaries from those flowing into the Platte. As the number of outfitting towns along the Missouri increased a half dozen or so feeder trails developed, entering the old route at various points between Independence and Grand Island. Many trains followed the Little Blue, which is some miles southwest and west of Beatrice, but others came up along the Big Blue, passing over the land now occupied by the town.

By the time the immigrants reached this neighborhood, they were usually proceeding in an orderly manner. The members of wagon trains were brought together in various ways; some trains were composed of people from a single neighborhood in the East who had decided to migrate together and others of the followers of some enthusiastic propagandist for settlement in the western country. But the majority of the immigrants were strangers who had formed a loose union in the outfitting towns for the purposes of protection and companionship. The members of each train usually set up a semi-military organization before leaving the river. But the first days of travel were often turbulent, with some travelers refusing to abide by the rules adopted by the majority and with others exhibiting their worst traits under the conditions of camp life. The majority of the women and many of the men had their first experience in outdoor living at the beginning of the trek. The hardier soon adapted themselves to it but as far west as Fort Laramie families were seen headed eastward. By the time the would-be settlers reached the Big Blue their muscles had begun to harden and the trek had taken on some of the aspects of a picnic.



DANIEL FREEMAN AT FREEMAN STAGE STATION

At 97.3 *m.* is the junction with State 15, graveled.

Right on State 15 to a junction with a dirt road at 0.4 *m.*, L here to a trail, 1.8 *m.*, then R. on foot 500 yards across a field to the GRAVE OF GEORGE WINSLOW (R), one of the four marked graves along the Oregon Trail in Nebraska.

Winslow was one of 25 Massachusetts men, all members of the Newton Stock Company, who left Boston early in 1849. Cholera broke out in the party, as it did in many of the day, and Winslow died here on Whiskey Run on June 8, 1849.

FAIRBURY, 100.3 *m.* (1,317 alt., 6,192 pop.), seat of Jefferson County, was platted in 1869 by Woodford G. McDowell and James B. Mattingly, and named by the former for his home in Illinois. Fairbury's growth dates from 1872, when the Republican River branch of the Burlington & Missouri River R.R., and the St. Joseph & Denver R.R., now part of the Union Pacific system, were completed. In 1874 a Russian-German colony was established on 27,000 acres of railroad land nearby; many Fairbury families are descended from members of this colony.

Although it does not have a daily newspaper, Fairbury is the home of the *Dairy Goat Journal*, a magazine devoted to milk-goat farming. Windmills, pumps, cylinders, pipes and fittings, and miscellaneous castings are manufactured here. Other enterprises include a packing plant and a FARMERS' UNION COOPERATIVE CREAM STATION manufacturing creamery products. Fairbury has a \$600,000 municipally owned electric light and power plant serving six towns.

For recreational purposes the citizens have CITY PARK, on West 5th St., and CRYSTAL SPRINGS PARK, 0.5 *m.* W. from 3d St., on State 3-S.

Left from Fairbury on State 3S is ENDICOTT, 6.8 *m.* (1,287 alt., 242 pop.), named for William C. Endicott (1827-1900), Secretary of War in President Cleveland's first Cabinet.

At 7.1 *m.* is the junction with a dirt road; L. on this road to a fork at 8.6 *m.*; R. to QUIVERA PARK, 9.9 *m.*, a 10-acre tract of cliffs and unspoiled woodland. John C. Frémont and Kit Carson passed through the park in 1842.

Left 0.7 *m.* from the entrance to Quivera Park to 10.6 *m.*, R. here to a road at 11.6 *m.*; R. again to a road at 12.6 *m.*; R. again to 13 *m.*, R. to a farmhouse on the SITE OF ROCK CREEK STATION, 13.4 *m.* A few boulders and the dry bed of Rock Creek are all that remain of this historic station on the Oregon Trail. Although it offered fuel, grass, and water, the steep-banked creek always proved one of the most difficult crossings along the way.

Rock Creek became a stage station in the spring of 1860 when the Central Overland California and Pike's Peak Company was established and set about planting stations every few miles between the Missouri and the Pacific. The station here was leased from David McCanles and placed in charge of Horace Wellman and his wife. They hired J. W. ("Dock") Brink as stock tender, and James B. ("Wild Bill") Hickok, a youth of 23, as his assistant.

Trouble broke out the following year when the company agreed to buy the station from McCanles but failed to pay him, except with promises. When McCanles after many delays demanded payment or possession of the buildings, Wellman proceeded to Nebraska City and returned with the necessary funds. But when McCanles came to collect, Mrs. Wellman informed him that her husband refused to see him. Hickok appeared in the door, pretended friendship, invited McCanles in and offered him a drink of water before stepping behind a flimsy calico partition. Becoming suspicious, McCanles put down the dipper and started to leave by another door. Hickok shot and killed him.

Hearing the shot, two of McCanles's friends came running and Hickok wounded both. One ran to the back of the cabin, followed by Wellman, who killed him with a hoe. Wellman saw McCanles's 12-year-old son and attacked him with the hoe, shouting, "Let's kill 'em all!" But the boy escaped. The other wounded man was trailed with his own bloodhounds, which pounced upon him and were tearing him to pieces when a load of buckshot from "Dock" Brink's shotgun ended his pain.

Hickok, Brink, and Wellman were tried on a charge of murder but acquitted. The trial, held at Beatrice in July 1861, was the first criminal case heard in the county.

West of Fairbury is GILEAD, 112.8 *m.* (1,543 alt., 147 pop.).

Right from the main street of Gilead on a dirt road to an OREGON TRAIL MARKER, 6 *m.*; L. here to ALEXANDRIA, 8 *m.* (1,403 alt., 421 pop.).

At 10 *m.* is the junction with a country road; R. here on this road to a junction at 11 *m.*, L. here to the JEFFERSON COUNTY RECREATION GROUNDS, 12.3 *m.*, on the edge of a lake (dry in drought years).

HEBRON, 125.3 *m.* (1,458 alt., 1,804 pop.), seat of Thayer County, was founded and named in 1869 by a group of pioneers identified with the Disciples of Christ.

In 1911 the HEBRON ACADEMY opened with an enrollment of 25 and has grown steadily, being well known for its music department.

Hebron is at the Junction with US 81 (*see Tour 3*).

DESHLER, 133.6 *m.* (1,177 pop.), is a broom town, manufacturing every shape and size of broom and whisk, and shipping 1 to 3 carloads daily.

At 134.5 *m.* State 3 passes a FOX FARM (R), one of a dozen or more in Nebraska.

RUSKIN, 141.3 *m.* (1,699 alt., 239 pop.), is at the junction with a dirt road.

Right on this road to OAK, 10 *m.* (1,592 alt., 218 pop.). In the vicinity are many monuments marking spots where the Indians clashed with the early settlers.

Left from Oak 1 *m.* on a dirt road to the SITE OF THE EUBANK MASSACRE, which occurred here on the Eubank Ranch near the mouth of Elk Creek on the Little Blue River in 1864.

Mrs. Eubank had gone across the river with several children, her sister, and Laura Roper, daughter of a neighboring rancher, to pick grapes. Suddenly they heard screams from their cabin where her husband had remained with a 12-year-old son who was ill. A few seconds later he burst from the cabin, with Cheyenne in pursuit. The women pulled the children into a thicket, and all might have escaped detection if one child had not cried out when his father was being scalped. The boy in the cabin, wounded in the first attack, escaped but was found dead in the underbrush a week later.

The Indians seized the women and children, and attempted to put them on their ponies. Mrs. Eubank's sister was killed when she resisted, as was a child, as the helpless mother looked on. The Indians rode rapidly west avoiding settlements and trails. In time, Mrs. Eubank and her surviving son were ransomed at Fort Laramie, and Laura Roper at Denver.

After an absence of 65 years, in 1929, Miss Roper, then Mrs. Laura Roper Vance, of Oklahoma, was brought to Nebraska by the State Historical Society and identified the site of the massacre in the presence of 150 people from Nuckolls and Thayer Counties.

At 171.7 *m.* is the junction with State 78, graveled.

Left on State 78 to the town of GUIDE ROCK, 1 *m.* (1,650 alt., 690 pop.), named for a rocky bluff southeast of town. The bluff has an almost perpendicular face, and served as a landmark for early western travelers. On a clear day it is visible for 20 miles. It was an ancient holy place of the Pawnee Indians.

RED CLOUD, 181.7 *m.* (1,690 alt., 1,519 pop.), seat of Webster County, is at the junction with US 281 (*see Tour 4*). The CATHER HOME, one-half block W. of the courthouse, next to the Methodist church, is the childhood home of the novelist Willa Cather, born in Virginia in 1876 and brought to Nebraska when she was 9.

Deciding she needed an "office," she had a lean-to built against the barn. Later removed and appended to a garage, the "office" now serves as a catch-all for small farm tools.

Red Cloud was also the home of Gov. Silas Garber, during whose administration (1874-1876), the State constitution was adopted.

West of Red Cloud State 3 approaches the NARROWS, where the Republican River hugs the north wall of the valley, leaving barely enough room for the railroad and the highway between the bluff and the river.

At INAALE, 188.6 *m.* (1,728 alt., 200 pop.), are graphic reminders of the flood of 1935: houses lifted from their foundations and left standing at rakish angles; debris hanging high in the trees, indicating the high water mark of the flood.

The highway passes through a stretch of river valley, with many trees and an abundance of wild fruit. The white Niobrara chalk and blue Pierre shale of some sections of the clay bluffs add spots of color.

FRANKLIN, 205.1 *m.* (1,820 alt., 1,103 pop.), named for Benjamin Franklin, was first called Franklin City. It was once the site of Franklin

Academy, founded August 12, 1881, and sponsored by the Congregational church. When the school closed in 1922, the campus became a city park.

Left from Franklin on State 10; L. at 4.0 *m.* to the site of an Indian house, known as the REAMS VILLAGE, 5 *m.*, on the Ted Hill farm. Erosion by Reams Creek has cut into the west side of the house, exposing quantities of broken pottery. The floor of the house was 18 inches beneath the ground surface, as indicated by a stratum of charcoal, broken bones, and potsherds. The cache, a hiding place for food and tools, measured 24 inches in diameter by 18 inches deep. The house was elliptical in form, differing in this respect from the typical Indian dwellings of the region.

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN, a limestone cap forming a table with a scarp 10 to 15 feet high, overlooks the Reams Village. From the northern extremity there is an excellent view of the Republican Valley.

BLOOMINGTON, 209.9 *m.* (1,848 alt., 431 pop.), has an old race track and a small cemetery that were apparently used many years ago. At the south end of the river bridge is a rock bluff, typical of this region. The office of W. A. Cole in Bloomington is on the SITE OF A LAND OFFICE opened in 1882.

At 212 *m.* is an OLD MILL, built in the 1880's and used for a quarter of a century to grind corn and provide power. With the depression of 1922 and the building of other mills, this one fell into disuse and has been partly torn down.

ALMA, 229 *m.* (1,942 alt., 1,235 pop.), seat of Harlan County, is a trading center for a wide farming district. Established in 1871, it is one of the oldest towns along the Republican River.

At Alma is the junction with US 83 (*see Tour 5*).

ORLEANS, 235.3 *m.* (1,996 alt., 985 pop.), has a successful CO-OPERATIVE CREAMERY, producing butter, ice cream, and ice. Established in 1917, the Farmers' Equity Cooperative Creamery Association was re-organized a year later; its creamery has grown steadily and now has branches in Crawford and Denver, and stations as far west as Montana and as far south as Texas. Each shareholder is permitted to hold only one share of stock, valued at \$100, on which a 3 per cent dividend is declared. The remaining profits are divided among the stockholders in direct proportion to the amount of butterfat that each has sold to the creamery during the year.

Orleans was settled by Roman Catholics, and is largely Catholic today. In the south part of town is the ORLEANS PUBLIC LIBRARY, built of gray stone brought from many parts of the United States and Mexico.

OXFORD, 248.3 *m.* (2,077 alt., 1,155 pop.) (*see Tour 9*), is at the eastern junction with US 6 (*see Tour 9*).

Section b. OXFORD to COLORADO LINE, 138 m. State 3

Between OXFORD, 0 *m.*, and a point 2 miles west of Culbertson, State 3 and US 6 are one route (*see Tour 9*).

At McCOOK, 55 miles west of Oxford, the time changes from central to mountain.

CULBERTSON, 67 *m.* (2,568 alt., 820 pop.) (*see Tour 9*).

At 69 *m.* is the western junction with US 6 (*see Tour 9*). Left from



CUT-OVER LAND

this junction on State 3, which runs through a section still showing evidence of the flood of May 31, 1935. The Republican River, normally shallow and rather narrow, became a raging torrent, reaching a width of 1.5 miles in several places. Farm buildings were swept away, new channels cut through fields of growing crops, huge trees uprooted and left in fields. All bridges, wires, and railroad tracks were washed away. The number of persons drowned in the valley totaled 94. Property damage was estimated at \$10,000,000.

At 76.4 *m.* is the MASSACRE CANYON MONUMENT (L), a 35-foot shaft of Mississippi pink granite from St. Cloud, Minn. On this monument, commemorating the last battle between the Pawnee and the Sioux, fought here in 1873, are carved the faces of John Grass (Sioux) and Ruling-His-Sun (Pawnee).

For hundreds of years the two tribes had lived in a state of fierce territorial conflict. Long friendly to the whites, the Pawnee had occupied the southcentral and western part of what is now Nebraska since prehistoric days, and regarded such occupancy as a hereditary right. When the buffalo decreased in numbers, a Government treaty was composed whereby the Sioux were to continue to hunt the migratory herds in a restricted area of the neighboring region. The immediate cause of the massacre was a report carried to the Sioux that the Pawnee had trespassed beyond the somewhat indefinite boundary.

The Pawnee were on a hunt supervised by their Government trail agent, J. W. Williamson. Their party consisted of 300 warriors, 400 women and children, 1,200 ponies, and a thousand dogs. Their leader, Sky Chief, disregarded reports that Sioux were encamped by Frenchman River, believing the report a ruse to stop the buffalo hunt. Once over the divide to the northeast, they saw the plain spotted with what they believed were buffalo. But as they came closer, they found Sioux and Brule warriors disguised in buffalo robes. Taken by surprise, the Pawnee warriors hurried their women and children into a ravine and rode on to meet the hostile party. But additional Sioux appeared and cut off the Pawnee, firing as they rode. Williamson, trusting in his official authority, tied a handkerchief to a pole and rode out to parley, but his horse was shot from under him. The Sioux attacked from both sides. Below in the canyon the women stood in a circle with arms raised, chanting the song of victory and death.

In a short time the Pawnee gave way, cut loose their ponies from packs and tepees, and fled down the canyon. This narrow passage, 150 yards wide, winding for three miles through the hills to the Republican River, was the scene of the bloodiest work. Cavalry from Fort McPherson arrived in time to save the Pawnee from extermination. But the tribe was broken. Their gear gone, without ponies to carry the dead and wounded, they straggled back to their village on the Loup River, never to visit the hunting grounds again. William Burgess, subagent, reported 56 known dead and 100 wounded or captured. William Z. Taylor reported the burial of 65 bodies in one grave.

TRENTON, 79.2 *m.* (2,680 alt., 865 pop.), laid out by the Lincoln Land Company, when the Burlington Route was extended to Denver, was first called Trail City from its position on the cattle trail leading north from Texas to Ogallala. In 1885, when the town was moved a half mile west to its present site on Rush Creek, it was renamed.

At the Massacre Canyon Pow-Wow, held for 3 or 4 days in early August at the American Legion Grounds, Sioux from the Rosebud and Pine Ridge Reservations perform tribal dances. A carnival, baseball games, band concerts, dancing, and a rodeo are part of the celebration. The most notable pow-wows were those of 1923, the 50th anniversary of the battle, and of 1925, attended by Pawnee and Sioux survivors of the massacre. Among them were Spotted Weasel, Chief Two Horse, White Wolf, and Ruling-His-Sun, more than 100 years old, who was prevailed upon to smoke the peace pipe with his former enemies.

Left from Trenton on a graveled road that runs through unusual territory for 8 miles. The canyons here, though small, have interesting rock formations. Here is seen a whitish-gray Tertiary deposit known as the Arikaree. A few trees are scattered here and there among the rocks. This area has attracted field parties from many museums. Numerous fossils of large turtles have been found here, as many as 10 or 15 appearing in one ledge.

At STRATTON, 90.6 *m.* (2,796 alt., 663 pop.), are the BIG TIMBERS of the Republican River, huge cottonwood trees ranging from 18 inches to 3 feet in diameter. Formerly the timber stretched along the valley for 12 miles, but many trees were uprooted by the flood of 1935.

At MAX, 100.3 *m.* (2,889 alt., 155 pop.), are some typical loess canyons.

Right from Max on a dirt road into a region of deep canyons that are crossed on high bridges. The road is passable only in good weather.

At 107 *m.* is a junction with a steep clay road.

Right on this road to the BENKELMAN FISH HATCHERY (*free; open 9-5*), 0.3 *m.*, surrounded by trees. White-tailed deer and pronghorn antelope are also kept here.

BENKELMAN, 108.6 *m.* (2,971 alt., 1,154 pop.), seat of Dundy County, is at the forks of the Arikaree and the Republican rivers. Just below the forks was Station 18 of the Leavenworth and Pike's Peak Express Company, a tiny log cabin on the south side of the river at the foot of a bluff.

At sunrise one morning in July 1867, the Seventh U. S. Cavalry under command of Gen. George A. Custer, while encamped here was attacked by a large war party of Sioux and Cheyenne. Aroused by the firing, Custer rushed from his tent into the midst of the battle. The Indians were driven off and later defeated in a battle that took place three miles northwest of this place. A few days later, on the Fort Wallace Trail, a part of Custer's command had a running fight with the Indians. Another party, consisting of Lieutenant Kidder, 10 men and an Indian scout, was destroyed by the Cheyenne on South Beaver Creek. Their bodies were found by Custer's men on their march north to Fort Wallace.

A band of Cheyenne led by their old chief, Dull Knife, also camped here when fleeing through southwestern Nebraska on October 1-2, 1878. Hating the broad hot plains assigned them in Indian Territory, after the Government had taken away their lands in Wyoming and Montana, Dull Knife and his followers escaped in September 1878, and rode north, intending to join Sitting Bull in Canada.

After a skirmish at Dodge City, Kans., the Indians reached the Republican River just below the forks at Benkelman and camped on Deer Creek. Troops were called out and camped on the river a few miles below them. Moving north to Frenchman Creek, the Indians killed a local rancher, George Rawley, the only white man killed during their flight through Nebraska. Near Crawford, in the northwest corner of the State, the larger part of the band was killed while resisting capture. Dull Knife and others were captured near Fort Robinson. A few Cheyenne succeeded in reaching Canada.

At 117 *m.* is the PRINGLE RANCH (*visitors welcome*), one of the largest in Nebraska, raising 3,000 to 7,000 hogs annually. The ranch contains 6,000 acres, 1,500 of which are fenced and cross-fenced hog-tight. Part of the ranch is devoted to diversified farming and cattle raising.

PARKS, 120 *m.* (3,105 alt., 150 pop.), is at the junction with a dirt road.

Right on this hilly winding road, marked by a sign at the west edge of Parks Ave. to the ROCK CREEK RECREATION GROUNDS, 4.4 *m.* (*adm. free*), with a 50-acre LAKE offering boating and trout fishing. The ROCK CREEK FISH HATCHERY (*adm. free*) stocks streams with crappie, sunfish, bass, and 5,000,000 trout a year.

HAIGLER, 131 *m.* (3,261 alt., 535 pop.), is on the site of the Three Bar Ranch, owned by Jake Haigler, the first postmaster.

At 138 *m* State 3 crosses the Colorado Line, 10 miles east of Wray, Colo. (*see COLO. Tour 2*).



Tour 12

Ogallala—Oshkosh—Bridgeport—Scottsbluff—(Torrington, Wyo.); US 26.

Ogallala to Wyoming Line, 155.5 *m.*

Between Lewellen and Northport the Union Pacific R R parallels the route; between Northport and Torrington, Wyo., the C B & Q R R.

Bus Service, junction US 26 and State 19 and Scottsbluff.

Graveled roadbed between Ogallala and Bayard; hilly, with several sharp curves and bad grade crossings; mostly concrete paved, some bituminous, between Bayard and Wyoming Line.

Tourist accommodations limited.

The highway runs northwestward across high tableland into the Wildcat Hills region; for the most part it follows the north bank of the North Platte River, the Mormon Trail, and parallels the Oregon Trail, which followed the south bank. Prior to 1862 nearly all emigrants bound for central California and Oregon traveled along one riverbank or the other, and many used the route thereafter. Pony Express riders as well as early overland stage travelers went through the valley. The course of the trails was determined by two objectives—Fort Laramie, which offered supplies, information, and protection, and South Pass, the lowest and broadest break in the Continental Divide.

Branching north from US 30 (*see Tour 8*), at OGALLALA, 0 *m.* (3,211 alt., 1,631 pop.) (*see Tour 8*) US 26 runs south of the Kingsley reservoir.

At 2.5 *m.* is the junction with State 61.

Right on State 61, crossing the Platte on KINGSLEY DAM, 7 *m.*, which forms a storage reservoir with a capacity of two million acre-feet of water. This artificial lake is the first in a system designed to irrigate 178,000 acres of land in Keith, Lincoln, Dawson, Buffalo, and Hall Counties—the tier north of the Platte River. The diversion dam will turn part of the overflow toward the South Platte River through a cut in the plateau that will be 6,850 feet long, and at one point 120 feet deep.

LEWELLEN, 31.8 *m.* (419 pop.), is in a section that produces alfalfa, sugar beets, and corn. In May 1847, when the Mormon pioneers camped

in this vicinity, Appleton Harmon was working on a roadometer, described by Clayton as "machinery for the wagon to tell the distance we travel." The monotonous process of counting the revolutions of the wagon wheels to estimate the length of daily travel was nearing an end.

Left from Lewellen on a dirt road that crosses the North Platte River to ASH HOLLOW, 3 m., a deep canyon through which one much used route of the Oregon Trail descended in a series of steep and dangerous grades from the plateau to the river bed. The precipitous but now easily passable road through the canyon, bordered by rank, spring-fed vegetation and arching trees, contrasts strikingly with the sweeping yellow wheat fields on the plateau and the sandy banks of the river below. Here and there are traces of the old trail.

On a knoll by the river at the mouth of the hollow is the SITE OF FORT GRATAN, a frontier post built of sod.

On a grassy slope at the mouth of the hollow, where the road turns close to the bluff, are a number of PIONEER GRAVES, among them that of Rachael Patterson, a young girl who was shot by Indians in 1849 while she was going to the spring. Joe Clary and another early settler, W. H. Gulliard, are also buried here.

Near the wide mouth of the hollow is a moist area where wild roses, chokecherries, gooseberries, currants, and ferns cover the ground, below tall ash trees.

About 0.7 m. from the river, a few small cedars growing out of depressions are believed to mark the SITE OF A TRAPPER'S CABIN built in 1846. This cabin was later a rendezvous and unofficial post office. Nearby is a small grove of ash trees, and a spring that feeds a reservoir. A marker shows where travelers camped or rested after the descent.

Half a mile below the crest of the hill are REMAINS OF THE JOE CLARY HOUSE; Clary was the first settler in the hollow. For a short distance about halfway down the hill ancient ruts of the trail are visible.

A marker indicates where ropes were used to ease wagons down abrupt WINDLASS HILL. Old diaries often mention the casualties to men, beasts, and equipment that were common events of the passage. An English traveler who made the trip in 1849 wrote that no one spoke for two miles, the descent was so breath-taking. He reported that riders dismounted and led their horses, that wagon wheels were locked and the wagons steadied with ropes, that two mules were crushed by a wagon that broke loose. In addition to such hazards, there was always the danger of Indian ambush in the narrow passage.

Ash Hollow and neighboring ravines were popular Indian hunting grounds. Even now beads and arrowheads are occasionally found. In the winter of 1835 it was the scene of a fierce day-long battle between the Pawnee and the Sioux.

An early journal relates that "the affray commenced early in the morning, and continued till near night. A trader, who was present with the Sioux on the occasion, describes it as having been remarkably close. Every inch of ground was disputed—now the Pawnees advancing upon the retreating Sioux; and now the Sioux, while the Pawnees gave way; but, returning to the charge with redoubled fury, the former once more recoiled. The arrows flew in full showers,—the bullets whistled the death-song of many a warrior,—the yells of combating savages filled the air, and drowned the lesser din of arms.

"At length arrows and balls were exhausted upon both sides,—but still the battle raged fiercer than before.

"War-club, tomahawk and butcher-knife were bandied with terrific force, as the hostile parties engaged hand to hand, and the clash of resounding blows, commingling with the clamor of unearthly voices which rent the very heavens, seemed more to prefigure the contest of fiends than aught else.

"Finally the Pawnees abandoned the field to their victorious enemies, leaving sixty of their warriors upon the ensanguined battleground. But the Sioux had paid dearly for their advantage;—forty-five of their bravest men lay mingled with the slain. The defeated party were pursued only a short distance, and then permitted to return without further molestation to their village, at the Forks of the Platte.

"This disaster so completely disheartened the Pawnees, they immediately aban-

doned their station and moved down the river some four hundred miles;—nor have they again ventured so high up (the North Platte Valley), unless in strong war-parties."

At 33.7 *m.* the highway crosses BLUE WATER CREEK, which in 1855 was the site of the Harney Battle, also known as the Battle of Blue Water and the Battle of Ash Hollow. Several incidents led up to this conflict, notably the killing of Lt. John Lawrence Grattan and his force of 28 men by Sioux in the previous year. Gen. W. S. Harney, commanding more than a thousand men, was sent into the Platte country to establish order. Although most of the Sioux, when ordered to cross to the south side of the Platte River, did so, one band of Brules stayed on the north side. Here, at Blue Water Creek, Harney and his men overtook and attacked them.

OSHKOSH, 43.7 *m.* (843 pop.), is the seat of Garden County. In 1855 four men established a cattle ranch here but there were not enough settlers to warrant the establishment of a postoffice until 1886.

The soil of this district is somewhat sandy. The prairie is rimmed with rock bluffs to the south and hills to the north. The land is irrigated and sugar beets are the principal crop.

At 44.2 *m.* is the junction with State 27.

Right on this graveled, sandy road (*make local inquiries as to condition*) to the 41,000-acre Federal migratory waterfowl sanctuary, CRESCENT LAKE RESERVE, 22 *m.*, under control of the Bureau of Biological Survey of the U S Department of Agriculture. Thousands of ducks of many species nest here during the summer. The region includes a number of lakes and swamps, among them Crescent Lake, one of the largest in Nebraska.

At BROADWATER, 74.6 *m.* (368 pop.), US 26 turns L., crosses to the south side of the North Platte, and continues northwest, following the river. Parts of the Wildcat Hills appear to the west

At 82.6 *m.* is the east junction with State 19 (*see Tour 6*), which unites with US 26 for 16 miles.

By an Oregon Trail marker at 88.7 *m.* is the GRAVE OF AMANDA LAMAN, member of a wagon train who died here of cholera on June 23, 1850. Her husband left his company to return to St. Louis for a gravestone and he returned with it as a member of a later train. In the late forties and early fifties thousands died of cholera in the United States and in Europe. Immigrants spread it near the port cities and from these it was carried along the travel routes. Westbound travelers fleeing the stricken cities of the Mississippi Valley were in many cases already infected and they in turn infected campgrounds and springs along the trails.

BRIDGEPORT, 90.4 *m.* (3,653 alt., 1,421 pop.), is near the place where the Astorians camped in the latter part of the winter of 1812–1813 (*see HISTORY*).

Camp Clarke Days (4 days, first week in Sept.) are observed here annually with a program opened by a parade with floats. The old settlers are honored; an unusual number of pioneer and Indian relics are displayed in the museum. There are water fights, athletic events, band concerts, speeches, and a bowery dance. The celebration is in memory of Camp Clarke (*see below*).



CHEESE CREEK RANCH, 1864

At Bridgeport are the junctions with State 86 (*see Tour 8A*) and State 88, graveled.

Left on this road to COURTHOUSE ROCK and JAIL ROCK, 5 m., which rise abruptly from a level plain, and form the eastern terminus of the Wildcat Hills. According to one account, Courthouse Rock was named by early travelers from St. Louis who thought it resembled their county building. The top stratum of the bluff, worn away on the edges, roughly suggests a classical pediment. According to another story, the butte was named after a band of 12 outlaws had been tried, found guilty, and shot to death on the summit Jail Rock nearby, somewhat smaller, is supposed to have been named by cowboys because of a jail's usual proximity to a courthouse. The lower part of the buttes is composed of Brule clay, the upper of Gering sandstone, a banded formation of sandstone and clay cemented with lime. In recent years hundreds of tourists have emulated the pioneers by carving their names and accumulated wisdom on the faces of the rocks, unaware that this formation weathers rapidly. A single heavy storm has been known to change the contour of the formation.

There is a story of a Pawnee folk hero, who was rewarded by the gods with a magic horse when he rescued his aged grandmother, who had been abandoned nearby on the prairie by the tribe in accordance with custom. With the aid of this horse he inflicted heavy losses on the traditional enemy, the Sioux, and performed a hunting feat that won him the chief's daughter for a bride. Between these exploits he retired to the rocks for communion with his spirits.

Another story connected with this area relates how the Pawnee, forced to retreat down the North Platte Valley before the encroachments of the fierce migratory tribes, left a small rear guard, who were outnumbered and forced to take refuge on top of the bluff. The Sioux encamped at the base, trying to starve out the Pawnee; but the Pawnee lowered themselves down a crevice, crept through the sleeping camp, and escaped.

Courthouse Rock was noted by many early explorers and travelers. Parker, the missionary, thought of it as an old castle. James Clyman, in his diary of 1844, and Palmer in 1845 described it as an Old World ruin. Bryant estimated that its height was 300 to 500 feet and the circumference one mile.

A nearby cliff of the same formation had the words "Post Office" carved on it, and travelers often deposited letters for aftercomers in boxes hewn in the soft stone base. Gilbert Cole, who passed along the trail in 1852, wrote an account of the region with its long panorama of rocks, water and sky, its cloud shadows on the plain, and its herds of buffalo and antelope. Jackson's diary tells of how some cattle drivers who were encamped near the rocks during a thunderstorm were so interested in the play of lurid lights on the monument that they threw bacon fat on the campfire to prolong the effect.

BIRDCAGE GAP, 12 *m.*, is a break in the Wildcat Range through which ran the stages between Sidney and the Black Hills. Parts of the trail are still discernible.

US 26 recrosses the North Platte to NORTHPORT, 91.8 *m.* (3,688 alt., 150 pop.), and turns L. on the north bank.

At 94 *m.* is the SITE OF CAMP CLARKE near the SITE OF THE CAMP CLARKE BRIDGE, used until 1900. In 1876 the first North Platte bridge for wagons was built here by Henry T. Clarke of Omaha to accommodate the stages operated between Sidney and the Black Hills. For a time troops were stationed at each end, because of the hostility of the Indians. A toll of \$1 for a team, 50¢ for a person, was charged. At the southern end of the bridge were a post office, store, saloon, stage barn, and other buildings that were destroyed by the sweeping prairie fire of 1910.

At 98 *m.* State 19 (*see Tour 6*) branches north from US 26.

BAYARD, 107.5 *m.* (3,753 alt., 1,559 pop.), was named in 1887 for Bayard, Iowa. The town's chief industrial activity is the manufacture of sugar from beets grown in what is locally called the Valley of the Nile because of the area's fertility under irrigation. From any point in the town is a view of the valley to the south and west, with its line of trees in the foreground backed by the blue hills of the Wildcat Range across the river. Standing out distinctly in the center of the valley is Chimney Rock (*see Tour 12A*), a landmark on the emigrant trails.

About 30 residents own collections of arrowheads (*inquire locally for those open to public*).

MINNATARE, 120.4 *m.* (3,820 alt., 1,079 pop.), was named for the Minnetaree, a Siouan tribe.

At 123.4 *m.*, where the highway again turns west, is the junction with a dirt road.

Right on this road to LAKE MINNATARE, 5 *m.*, is an artificial lake created for irrigation purposes. It is a game-bird refuge, and is popular with those who like boating and fishing.

Visible from Minnatare is Scotts Bluff, a landmark that rises 700 feet above the river (*see Tour 12A*).

At 129.9 *m.* is the junction with a graveled and graded road.

Left on this road 1 *m.* to a junction marked by a red-brick schoolhouse; R. 0.3 *m.* on a dirt road through a farmyard; then on foot. It is necessary to crawl under a barbed-wire fence to visit the GRAVE OF REBECCA WINTERS, 1.5 *m.*

In the spring of 1852 on her way westward Mrs. Winters, a Mormon, was stricken with cholera. She survived the attack but did not recover and for 500 miles she traveled on a pile of quilts in a creaky wagon, and died at this point. This place is much visited by Mormons who have erected a monument here.

The grave bears a little bush at one end, a monument, a wagon rim, and a little headstone, all enclosed by a black-pipe fence. The monument shows an outline of the Salt Lake Temple.

SCOTTSBLUFF, 131.9 *m.* (4,000 alt., 8,465 pop.), is the leading Nebraska city that has grown up because of irrigation. What was an irrigated alfalfa field in 1899 is now the chief trading center for a large area of Panhandle Nebraska and eastern Wyoming. The Scottsbluff region now has sugar factories, and produces sugar-beets, alfalfa, certified potatoes, and beans.

Scottsbluff and Gering (*see Tour 12*), face each other across the North Platte River, and are connected by a bridge.

The METHODIST EPISCOPAL HOSPITAL, at 18th and Broadway, formerly a hotel, serves the needs of a large area and has 27 physicians and surgeons on its staff.

West of Scottsbluff the highway continues along the North Platte River, through the hill country, where a patchwork landscape of sugar beets, alfalfa, corn, beans, and wheat is crisscrossed by the irrigation ditches that have made cultivation possible. To operate a farm successfully in this area a man must be both a farmer and an engineer. He must spend much time wading in rubber boots along the ditches, adjusting dams and water gates, shoveling out ditches, and guiding water into the proper channels.

All summer long beet workers are seen in the fields. On the edges of the fields are the shacks inhabited from mid-May into October by families of Mexicans, Spanish Americans, and Germans who come to the area to work (*see INDUSTRY*).

At 134 *m.* is the junction with a dirt road.

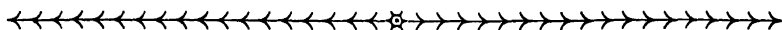
Right on this road to the SCOTTSBLUFF EXPERIMENT FARM (*open to visitors*), 4 *m.*, maintained by the Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the University of Nebraska. The farm has 160 acres of irrigated land and 800 acres of pasture

MITCHELL, 141.7 *m.* (3,945 alt., 2,058 pop.), has a sugar factory and markets honey. The SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS are here; the annual fair is one of the leading events in the State.

HENRY, 155.2 *m.* (167 pop.), was moved from Wyoming into Nebraska because the inhabitants wanted an advantage in railroad freight rates. Near Henry in Wyoming is the site of the first Red Cloud Agency. The establishment of this reservation marked the end of Chief Red Cloud's activities against the whites.

In 1875 the agency was moved near Fort Robinson (*see Tour 7*), and the first agency was abandoned.

At 155.5 *m.* US 26 crosses the Wyoming Line, 8 miles east of Torrington, Wyo. (*see WYO. Tour 4*).



Tour 12A

Bridgeport—Chimney Rock—Gering—Scotts Bluff National Monument—Horse Creek Treaty Monument—Wyoming Line; State 86.

Bridgeport to Wyoming Line, 59.4 m.

The Union Pacific R R parallels this route.

Graveled roadbed

Limited accommodations except in Gering

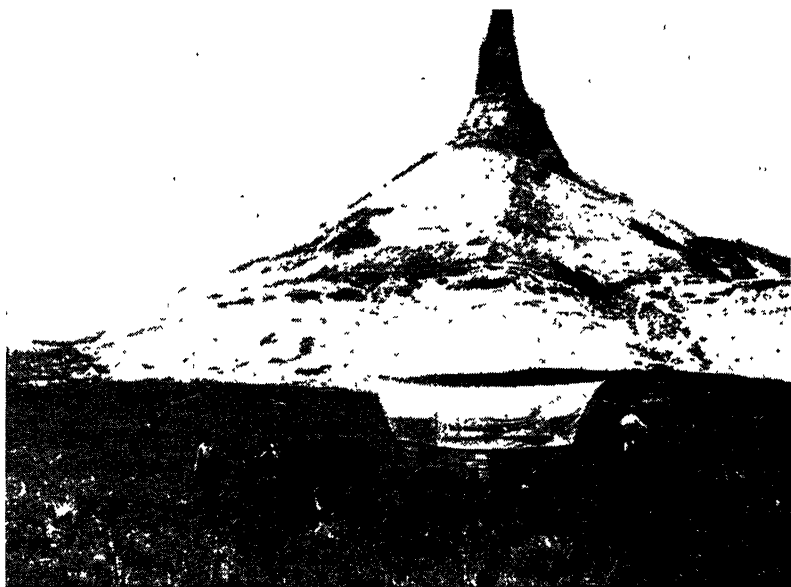
This historically important route follows the Oregon Trail westward through a picturesque region containing many interesting landmarks.

State 86 branches west from US 26 (*see Tour 12*) at BRIDGEPORT, 0 m. (*see Tour 12*).

At CHIMNEY ROCK, 16 m. (4,242 alt.), a flag stop on the Union Pacific R. R., the historic landmark of the same name rises abruptly from the valley floor on the old Oregon Trail. This eroded plateau, a conical mound of reddish sandstone covering some 40 acres, has interested travelers for more than a century. From the center a narrow shaft rises approximately 150 feet. Although it is being worn down rapidly by wind and rain, early explorers were no doubt generous in estimating its height at 500 feet. Soberly examined, it does not much resemble a chimney. The Indians called it a wigwam. Its present name is presumed to have been coined by Joshua Pilcher in 1827.

Standing 350 feet above the river bed, the landmark affords a good view of the valley and the rugged spur of hills reaching up from the Wildcat Hills to the southwest. Franklin B. Bryant, an artist who traveled overland in 1849, likened the formation to the Acropolis, a Mexican pyramid, the crumbling remains of an Egyptian temple, and miscellaneous castles and palaces.

Chimney Rock was described by almost all early explorers but their descriptions varied considerably. The Astorians passed it in 1813 but did not call it by any name. To John C. Frémont, the pathfinder, who noted its latitude and longitude in 1842, it looked like a factory chimney or the shot tower in Baltimore. The Rev. Samuel Parker, who climbed to the base of the column, objected to calling it a chimney and recommended the name Beacon Hill. He and his fellow-travelers amused themselves by shooting away small projections at the top of the spire, pieces of which they carried away as mementoes. Kelley objected both to the name and estimates of its height, predicting that it would be worn away in 50 years. Bonneville was content to call it a "shaft" or "column," while the prosaic diarist of the Birmingham Emigrating Company, recorded that it reminded him of a potato hole (the mound over a vegetable cache marked with a stake).



EZRA MEEKER AT CHIMNEY ROCK

In the natural amphitheater at the base of the rock a religious pageant, *The Gift of God*, is performed every year on four successive evenings in mid-June (*adm. free*). This pageant, written by the Rev. Louis Kaub, portrays the life of Christ and is performed by 125 actors assisted by a choir. The visitors may bring basket lunches and camp overnight on the patrolled grounds.

At 20.8 m. is McGREW (128 pop.).

Left from McGrew on a dirt road to TABLE ROCK, 11.5 m. South of this point are STEAMBOAT ROCK, TWIN SISTERS, and SMOKESTACK ROCK.

At 23.3 m. is the junction with a dirt road.

Left on this road to CASTLE ROCK, 1 m.

GERING, 34 m. (3,902 alt., 2,531 pop.), seat of Scotts Bluff County, was named for Martin Gering, Civil War veteran, banker, and a member of the original town-site group formed in 1887. Gering is a division point for the Union Pacific R. R. Its largest industrial plant is the Great Western Sugar Company's refinery. Stock yards and a packing plant were opened in 1938, with sales every Monday.

The people of Gering, like those of other western Nebraska towns, identify themselves more closely with Wyoming and Colorado than with Nebraska. They read the larger Colorado newspapers in preference to those of Omaha or Lincoln.

Oregon Trail Days, a popular two-day celebration, is held here annually during the week in which July 17 falls. This date was chosen because a Sublette expedition, the first group to take wagons across the plains to the Rockies, camped near the site of this town on July 17, 1830. The program includes dances and songs of the Sioux, a public wedding, a parade with floats, and an Old Settlers' Exhibit, housed in the Crumine Building on the south end of the main street.

Left from Gering on State 29, a graveled road, to a junction with a dirt road 2 m.; R on this road to ROUBIDOU PASS, 8 m., used before Mitchell Pass was developed for the use of wagons. This road follows an old trail down Gering Valley. The route was used during the great migration to Oregon in 1843-1848, the California gold rush of 1849, as well as the rush of 1850-1851.

The pass was named for Basil Roubidou, an early French fur trader, who had had many hazardous adventures. Once, when he was stricken with smallpox, he was abandoned by his comrades, but was rescued by a Sioux medicine man who nursed him back to health. At the western end of the pass he established a trading post (1848), which the Arapaho destroyed about 1852. A stone marker indicates the SITE OF THE ROUBIDOU BLACKSMITH SHOP. Southwest of Roubidou Pass is SIGNAL BUTTE, entirely separated from the range and almost perpendicular on each side. An archeological expedition, sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution, has found the remains of three Indian cultures while excavating here.

Northwest of Signal Butte, on the bank of a dry creek, is a quarry excavated by a field party from the University of Nebraska Museum. Here were found the bones of 30 or 40 bison of a species now extinct. Some artifacts found with the bones indicate a culture earlier than that of the Plains Indians.

HELVAS CANYON, 7 m., is a minor gap in the Wildcat Hills. At the time the Oregon traffic was using Roubidou Pass, a trading post and blacksmith shop were established here at the mouth of the canyon on a level spot, near a wooded stream but distant enough so that marauding Indians would have no immediate cover.

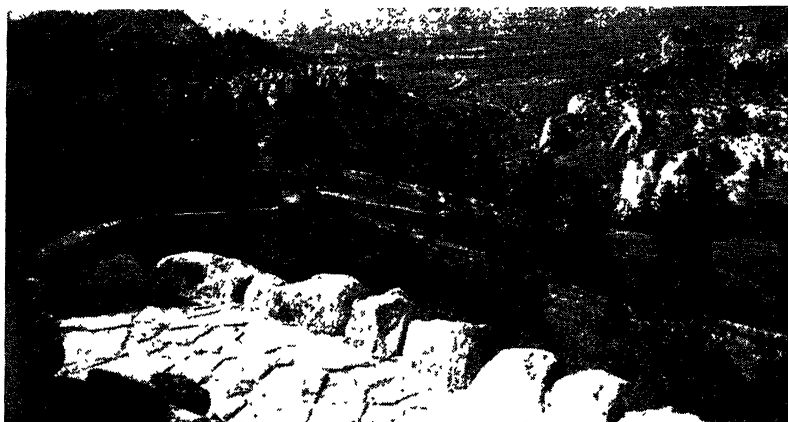
The highway crosses STAGE HILL, 10 m., so called because the old stagecoaches from Kimball to Gering took this route. On this hill is the WILDCAT STATE GAME PRESERVE (*stove and shelter houses*), an 840-acre tract of extremely rugged and wooded country, reminiscent of the Wild West. The land was purchased by co-operative associations in the towns of Scotts Bluff County, and presented to the State in 1930.

The geological formations in this section of the Wildcat Range are varied. Breaking through the grassy slopes of Brule clay are nearly vertical cliffs of sandstone banded in several colors. The ravines and higher slopes are wooded with pine, and the canyon floors are overgrown with cottonwood, oak, boxelder, willow, chokecherry, and buffalo berry. Wild flowers dot the open spaces, notably the wild rose, cream-colored yucca, and brush morning glory. The drive along the game preserve presents a continuous vista of the nearer formations and several good views of the surrounding country. The North Platte Valley slopes gently away to the east and northeast while cutting the farther horizon are the familiar landmarks of the old Oregon Trail days—Signal Butte and Bald Peak to the west, Scotts Bluff to the north, and down the river to the east the spire of Chimney Rock.

The first animals placed in the park, four deer from Texas, were unable to withstand the northern climate. Four mule deer from the Kaibab Forest of Utah replaced them. Elk, bison, and wild turkeys have been successfully introduced. The Parks Commission has insured an adequate water supply by damming a spring-fed stream to form a channel. A larger dam had been built near the highway to form a two-acre lake.

THE COMMUNITY SHELTER HOUSE, built of natural rock and having a large fireplace at either end, overlooks one of the most agreeable vistas of the reserve.

FUNNEL ROCK (L) (4,502 alt.), near the preserve, is easily identified by its resemblance in shape to an inverted funnel. Farther from the preserve is WILDCAT MOUNTAIN (R) (5,082 alt.), with its high, pine-covered ridge; and HOG-BACK MOUNTAIN (R) (4,300 alt.).



WILDCAT HILLS RECREATIONAL AREA

At 19 m is the junction with State 88. Here State 29 turns R Southeast (L) of this junction is BIG HORN MOUNTAIN (4,713 alt.), called by the Indians *He Sha* (White Mountain).

HARRISBURG, 24 m. (62 pop.), was named for Harrisburg, by a settler from Pennsylvania. Near here are two rocks called LOVER'S LEAP. From one of these rocks, legend says, the daughter of a Sioux chief jumped to her death, rather than desert her own sweetheart for an Oglala brave to whom she had been betrothed by her parents.

SCOTTS BLUFF NATIONAL MONUMENT, 36.7 m. (*camping and picnic facilities*), on a tract of 3,240 acres just south of the North Platte River was acquired by the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior on December 12, 1919. According to plans (1938), nature-study trails, guide service, and a look-out station equipped with telescopes are to be established on the northern side of the bluff. Trees and shrubs have been planted, and picnic grounds laid out. Other facilities will be added, including three wings for the museum, all to be built of adobe brick of local clay.

SCOTTS BLUFF (R) was the first butte of dominating height to greet the plains-weary eyes of pioneers traveling the Oregon Trail. In the diaries and the published narratives of the period it is always mentioned as an important landmark and wagon trains often stopped here for two or three days for sightseeing. The members took advantage of the halt to make repairs. Many travelers climbed the bluff to view the great trail 600 feet below.

Scotts Bluff stretches southwest from the Platte River. DOME ROCK, a conspicuous isolated outcropping, forms the southeast boundary. The bluff rises to an altitude of 4,662 feet, 750 feet above the river plain. The lower two-thirds of the bluff consists of flesh-colored Brule clay. The top third consists of Gering and Arikaree sandstones. The ravines, the north-

western slope, and the summit bear a light growth of juniper and pine trees.

In the *Adventures of Captain Bonneville* Washington Irving told the origin of the name: "A number of years since, a party were descending the upper part of the river in canoes, when their frail barks were overturned and all their powder spoiled. Their rifles being thus rendered useless, they were unable to procure food by hunting and had to depend upon roots and wild fruits for subsistence. After suffering extremely from hunger, they arrived at Laramie's Fork . . . about sixty miles above the cliffs. . . . Here one of the party, by the name of Scott, was taken ill; and his companions came to a halt, until he should recover health and strength sufficient to proceed. While they were searching round in quest of edible roots, they discovered a fresh trail of white men, who had evidently but recently preceded them. What was to be done? By a forced march they might overtake this party, and thus be able to reach the settlements in safety. Should they linger they might all perish of famine and exhaustion. Scott, however, was incapable of moving; they were too feeble to aid him forward, and dreaded that such a clog would prevent their coming up with the advance party. They determined, therefore, to abandon him to his fate. Accordingly, under pretense of seeking food, and such simples as might be efficacious in his malady, they deserted him and hastened forward upon the trail. They succeeded in overtaking the party of which they were in quest, but concealed their faithless desertion of Scott, alleging that he had died of disease.

"On the ensuing summer, these very individuals visiting these parts in company with others, came suddenly upon the bleached bones and grinning skull of a human skeleton, which, by certain signs they recognized for the remains of Scott. This was sixty long miles from the place where they had abandoned him; and it appeared that the wretched man had crawled that immense distance before death put an end to his miseries."

Two species of trees predominate—red cedar and ponderosa pine. Once fairly well wooded, the bluffs were stripped of larger trees by soldiers and settlers in search of firewood and building material. A hard stratum of volcanic ash just above the talus slope on the west face of the bluff was inscribed by early travelers with their names, towns, and dates of departure. The inscriptions were not photographed or copied, unfortunately, and are now almost entirely flaked off. A few are preserved in the museum (*see below*).

The OREGON TRAIL MUSEUM (*adm. free*), at the base of the bluff, is constructed of red brick painted a buff-cream color to harmonize with the cliff background. It is designed in modern style without windows; the exhibits are displayed under indirect light. These exhibits consist of pictures and maps illustrating many aspects of frontier life: Indians, Spanish exploration, covered-wagon migration, pioneer communication, trapping, and wildlife. Permanent museum exhibits for the historical wing include about 150 maps and water colors, and three dioramas. A large collection of historical relics, fossils, and artifacts has been accumulated through loan and donation.



MITCHELL PASS

Right from the museum on the Summit Road Built at a cost of \$500,000, the road curves at a 7 percent grade up the side of the bluff, passes through three tunnels, and ascends the other side At the foot of the bluff on the eastern side is IRAM SCOTT SPRING (R). According to an old tradition, Scott's body was found at this spring The dates given for the incident vary between 1828 and 1844. The spring has a flow of 800 gallons a day, and is surrounded by a reservoir which enables visitors to drink the water That the spring was once an oasis for emigrants is shown by the many relics found about it: buckles, wrought nails, pieces of broken china dating from the fifties Several hundred yards northwest of the spring a new foot trail, built by the National Park Service in 1934.

MITCHELL PASS, 37 m., divides the bluff in half. Before 1852 travelers used the Roubidou Pass, 8 miles southwest of this point. Mitchell Pass was considered impassable until it was excavated for wagon traffic in the early 1850's, probably by soldiers from Fort Laramie, Wyo. There is no authentic record of any wheeled vehicles going through Mitchell Pass until 1852, but a few explorers and soldiers may have ridden through on horseback before that time.

Mitchell Pass was used by most of the covered-wagon traffic after 1852; it was also on the route of the first stage lines, the Pony Express, and the original transcontinental telegraph. At least one wagon train was attacked near this point by Indians, who found the surrounding country ideal for an ambush This raid occurred in 1866. Fortunately, the caravan was accompanied by a few soldiers, who succeeded in holding off the Indians until help arrived.

Around the bluff to the north, a few miles upstream, is the SITE OF OLD FORT MITCHELL, originally Camp Shuman. This fort, established in 1864 by Captain Shuman, afterwards named for Gen. Robert Mitchell, commander of the district, served for a time as an outpost of Fort Laramie.

HAIG, 42.2 m. (270 pop.), was named for Harry Haig, a cattleman, brother of Field Marshall Haig of World War fame.

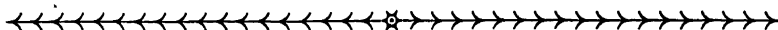
HORSE CREEK TREATY MONUMENT, 55.1 m., directly on the old Oregon Trail, is near Horse Creek, which lies to the north and flows into the North Platte River. The creek is said to have been given its name because

of the fact that Thomas Fitzpatrick, an early trader, was robbed of his horses here by Crow Indians in 1824.

Here the largest assembly of Indians in American history gathered in September 1851. The Federal Government had called this council for the purpose of arriving at agreements in regard to reservation boundaries and privileges of whites in crossing them. Messengers had been sent out to the tribes a year before the meeting. All the Indian nations of the plains and the foothills, from the Arkansas River to Canada, were informed of the great council to be held in this central place in the plains region, where there was water and excellent grazing land for stock. More than 10,000 Indians came: Shoshone, Sioux, Cheyenne, Assiniboin, Arapaho, Blackfeet, Arikari, Gros Ventre, Mandan, and Crow. The United States flag flew daily on the large pavilion, built by the women on the land between Horse Creek and North Platte River. On September 8 a cannon shot announced the beginning of the council, which produced the first Fort Laramie Treaty, so known because of the proximity to Fort Laramie, in Wyoming, the nearest place that had a name.

The monument here, unveiled on May 26, 1929, is made of red granite brought from Sherman Pass, Wyo.; it is about 8 feet high, and has a rounded top.

At 59.4 *m.* State 86 crosses the Wyoming Line.



Tour 13

Junction with US 20—Ponca—Niobrara—Lynch—Butte—(Burke, S. Dak.) ; State 12.

Junction with US 20 to South Dakota Line, 169.3 *m.*

Between Niobrara and Spencer the Chicago & North Western Ry. parallels the route

Graveled roadbed throughout

Accommodations limited.

This route averses an area of much interest, for most of its course following the Missouri River.

State 12 branches northwest from US 20, 0 *m.* (*see Tour 7*), 12.8 miles west of South Sioux City.

PONCA, 82 *m.* (1,145 alt., 920 pop.), one of the oldest towns in the State, was surveyed and platted in 1856 by Frank West and a Dr. Stough. At one time the town had an unusually fine race track and the annual

races attracted hundreds. The railroad, which reached Ponca in 1876 and greatly stimulated the town's growth, was abandoned in 1933. The brick COURTHOUSE, built in 1883, still stands.

Right from Ponca into PONCA STATE PARK, 3 *m.* (*shelters, camping facilities*), consisting of several hundred acres of wooded land overlooking the Missouri River.

At 13.2 *m.* is the junction with an unimproved road.

Right on this road to the so-called IONIA VOLCANO, 8 *m.*, a steep bluff overlooking the Missouri River. The clays and shales composing it contain iron sulphide, which produces some heat when acted upon by water; this accounts for the smoking of the bluff, as well as for its name. The Lewis and Clark party described the phenomenon in their reports. Lewis and Clark found mounds south of the bluff and remains indicating that an Indian town of great size had formerly stood here.

The war-like people who had inhabited the region are said to have been fire worshippers. The Ionia Volcano was consequently held sacred. No one ventured near the bluff except at prescribed times; with every full moon the tribesmen assembled here for ceremonies, during which the old and feeble, war prisoners, squaws, and children were tortured and sacrificed. It is believed that the preliminary torturing was done in a cavern of the "volcano."

NEWCASTLE, 19.4 *m.* (1,284 alt., 446 pop.), surrounded by fertile farm land, had only 15 buildings in 1893. In 1892 the local people had sent a committee to St. Paul, Minn., to induce a railroad company to extend its line from Ponca to this place. In 1894 the railroad was built and for 40 years it gave the town access to the Sioux City livestock and grain markets; on April 19, 1933, it went out of service.

Near MASKELL, 27.6 *m.* (131 pop.), were fought intertribal Indian battles, as the numerous arrowheads found on hillsides and in the valleys indicate. Tops of nearby bluffs were used for Indian burials. Students from South Dakota State University at Vermillion often come here to gather Indian skulls and other relics.

The riverbanks abound with marine fossils. Along the banks are dams built by beavers.

West of Maskell is a heavily wooded section popular for pheasant and duck hunting.

WYNOT, 40.8 *m.* (348 pop.), in the Bow Creek Valley, came into existence in 1907 as a railroad stop. Many businesses sprang up here, but the 1929 depression, drought, and finally the abandonment of the railroad put an end to them. The name is said to be a contraction of the phrase "Why not?"; local tradition has it that this was the favorite phrase of a well-known early resident, an old German. The predecessor of this town, called St. James, was on a knoll one mile north of the present settlement. It was abandoned because of trouble with its water supply.

Right from Wynot on a dirt road to the WISEMAN MEMORIAL, 5 *m.*, a monument erected in 1926 in memory of the five children of Henson Wiseman, who were slain by a party of Yankton and Santee Sioux in 1863. Wiseman, who was serving with the Second Nebraska Cavalry, learned of the tragedy a month after it had occurred. Crazy by the event he shot Indians on sight thereafter, always leaving their bodies in attitudes of prayer.

At 43 *m.* is the junction with a dirt road.

Right on this road to ST. HELENA, 8 *m.* (83 pop.), organized as a rival of St.

James Here is a REPRODUCTION OF AN INDIAN VILLAGE (*adm. 10¢; open all day*), completed in 1934. The lodges are on a village site excavated in 1933 by representatives of the University of Nebraska.

CROFTON, 60.7 m. (733 pop.) (*see Tour 3*), is at the junction with US 81 (*see Tour 3*).

At 73.1 m. is a junction with a sandy road.

Right on this hilly, twisting road, which passes a garage and oil station at TEWSDALE, to DEVIL'S NEST, 6 m., a tract of rough meadow and woodland along the Missouri River. This region is dotted with hills shaped like old-fashioned chocolate drops, and is bounded on three sides by grazing land, the south line is a chalk cliff rising 70 to 120 feet. The highest point in the region is about 450 feet above the bottom land. Grasses cover the clearings. Cottonwood, elm, ash, burr oak, and boxelder line the ravines and cover many of the hills. Red cedar, linden, and Kentucky coffee trees are here also but in smaller numbers. Wild grapes and strawberries are plentiful in season.

Formerly the home of wild turkey, elk, and deer, the country now contains only the more common small game animals, such as the red squirrel and the cottontail rabbit. The region is visited annually by migratory waterfowl and is the refuge of quail, pheasants, and the many varieties of songbirds, including the multicolored canary, finch, oriole, blue martin, cardinal, thrush, plover, mourning dove, and meadowlark.

According to legend, Devil's Nest was a hideaway of Jesse James and of rustlers and fugitives of pioneer days. The character of the country lends support to such tales. One of the first descriptions of the area is in the *Journals* of Lewis and Clark, who camped here in 1804. At that time the rough meadow was separated from the mainland and the explorers named it Bonhomme Island.

SANTEE, 12 m. (75 pop.), is an Indian settlement on the bank of the Missouri River. The town was named for the Santee Sioux who were moved here from their lands in Minnesota and in Dakota Territory after an uprising in 1862.

Indian resentment against the white invasion of their lands in the West had increased gradually. The first white visitors were welcomed as curiosities and the early traders as importers of gadgets and manufactured products. There was no great hostility shown to the first whites who traveled across Indian lands. Active resistance came when the natives began to feel the results of the wanton slaughter of the buffalo that had been their main food supply. The first invaders had merely crossed the plains but by the middle of the nineteenth century they were beginning to settle there, forcing the Indians to live on continually smaller reservations. The treaties fixing the boundaries of such land contained provisions for the compensation of the natives but the administration of Indian affairs was usually in the hands of corrupt agents who diverted the supplies and moneys intended for the natives to their own pockets. Protests were made and received but there was no relief.

By 1864 the Indians in many parts of the West, and particularly in Minnesota, were starving and the braves had become desperate. Word of the outbreak of the Civil War spread rapidly from one Indian village to the other; the native saw his chance to drive out his enemies, who, he thought, were weakened by the intratribal hostilities. Concerted attacks were made in many places; all the stage stations for hundreds of miles along the overland trail were wrecked simultaneously. The most serious attack on white settlements took place in Minnesota. Three hundred out of 500 Indians captured in Minnesota were sentenced to death but President Lincoln commuted the sentences of all but 38. The rest of those captured were brought to a reservation here.

In 1934, 1,268 Indians were living in this region, which is a reservation though administrative matters are handled by an agency near Winnebago (*see Tour 1*). Though Santee today looks like a deserted village, Indians are often seen, especially near the little general store or around the gasoline pump, the only one in many miles.

The SANTEE MISSION AND NORMAL TRAINING SCHOOL was established here by Dr. A. L. Riggs on the bluffs overlooking the river. The several dormitories stand

out prominently in the landscape. Here Charles Alexander Eastman (1858-1927), son of a Santee Sioux and a half-breed woman, received his early education. He became a noted physician on Indian reservations and a widely known lecturer on Indian life.

At 84.1 *m.* is MAIDEN'S LEAP, a 100-foot chalk rock with a profile resembling a man's. There is the usual story to account for the name: an Indian girl in love with one brave but betrothed by her father to another, committed suicide by riding one of her father's finest horses over the edge of the cliff. Another story told in connection with the place is that Jesse James, pursued by Indians, leaped from the cliff on a horse and swam across the river to safety.

NIORARA, 88.8 *m.* (1,248 alt., 761 pop.), is on the site of a Ponca village. Favorable reports of the place were current in Kanesville (Council Bluffs), Iowa; and in May 1856 a little group of settlers led by B. Y. Shelley, a physician, went to see it. In the presence of the entire Ponca band, they marked off the land that is now Old Town.

After the men had erected the first building, a small garrison referred to later as Old Cabin, they returned to Council Bluffs and Sioux City, and invited others to join them in developing the new town. That winter (1856) the Ponca, who resented this usurpation of their land, rose against the settlers. The whites took refuge in Old Cabin, and defended it successfully though the Indians burned all the other buildings.

Shelley and three men spent the winter in Old Cabin, and that winter the tiny new settlement was made the seat of the county, which was at first called Eau Qui Court (later Knox). The seat was moved away in 1901.

In the early days the town grew steadily. On June 29, 1857, the *Omaha* steamed up to the riverbank with a cargo of lumber, and three days later the first frame building here was completed. This structure, formerly known as the BRUNS HOUSE, still stands; it is the first directly north of the Pike store. Before long a United States district land office was established in the town. In later years there was some industrial development, tomato-canning, meat-packing, flour milling, and brewing being carried on.

On March 29, 1881, the 25th anniversary of the settling of Niobrara, the Missouri River climaxed a severe winter by overflowing and driving hundreds of people from their homes and farms, destroying furniture and goods in stores, and killing livestock. The inhabitants, fearful of future floods, began to move their homes and stores from the old site, two miles below the mouth of the Niobrara River on the south bank of the Missouri, to this place, which is a mile and a half southwest of Old Town.

Niobrara was never the usual rowdy river town. It early had an orchestra of six pieces that played for dances and social gatherings, and after 1885 the town gave encouragement to a 24-piece Indian band that had been organized after a Government order had brought several hundred Sioux to a mass meeting at the Santee Agency. This band, trained by John Lenger, the director, gave concerts in Lincoln and Omaha over a period of 12 years.

The G. A. R. HALL, then the community hall, was also the social and

cultural center of the county for many years. Balls, traveling minstrel shows, concerts by the Negro pianist, Blind Boone, revival meetings, home-talent plays, and commencement exercises were held here.

At 90.3 *m.* the road crosses timbered NIOBRARA ISLAND STATE PARK AND GAME RESERVE (*camping facilities and cabins; picnic grounds; golf course, baseball diamond, shelter house*) in the Niobrara River. The park is R., the game reserve L. Ferns and violets fill the damp earth pockets; many wild flowers bloom here in the summer.

THE NEWELL KNIGHT MONUMENT, 91 *m.*, marks the site of a Mormon camp, and also honors Newell Knight and others who died here.

Sixty-five Mormon families, part of the first large band to leave Nauvoo, Ill., after the killing of Joseph Smith, had been sent on from the camp on the banks of the Missouri where most of the refugees stopped to prepare for a long trip westward in search of a place where they could found a community without interference from gentile neighbors. The advance party traveled with 150 wagons but had limited supplies; so when they reached Pawnee Station—which became Columbus—where a number of soldiers were stationed, they were glad to obtain a Government contract to harvest small grain and corn that had been deserted by laborers who had fled in fear of the Pawnee. While doing this job they received instructions from Brigham Young that because of the lateness of the season they should not attempt to continue westward and should at once establish a winter camp. A band of Ponca visiting the Pawnee at the time, told them of a good site here, and volunteered to guide them to it.

The refugees found timber, game, and feed for their stock in the area and erected shelters at this place; but the weather was unusually severe and 17 members of the party died. In the spring the Church Council called the caravan back to the main camp on the Missouri. Brigham Young had been reading the reports of Captain Frémont and had half-decided on settlement in the neighborhood of the Great Salt Lake.

MONOWI (Ind., *flower*), 111.8 *m.* (123 pop.), was so named because of many wild flowers in the vicinity.

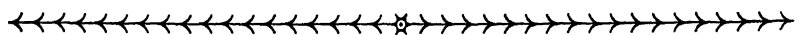
LYNCH, 118.7 *m.* (498 pop.).

Right from Lynch on a sandy road running beside the schoolhouse to the SITE OF AN INDIAN TOWN, 1.6 *m.*, examined in 1936 under the direction of Dr. Earl H. Bell of the University of Nebraska; students have uncovered shards and other artifacts, remains of a prehistoric community, whose members were farmers and utilized the natural subirrigation along the Ponca River. Only a small part of the city has been explored; it is estimated that it covered about 1.5 square miles.

Nothing is known of these aborigines—to what tribe they belonged, where they came from, when they lived here. There is some evidence, however, that they left the region during a long period of severe drought.

At 129.4 *m.* is the junction with US 281 (*see Tour 4*). Between this point and 144.2 *m.* US 281 and State 12 are one route (*see Tour 4*).

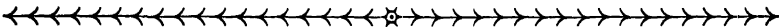
At 169.3 *m.* State 12 crosses the South Dakota Line, 12 miles south of Burke, S. Dak.



PART IV

Appendices





Chronology

- 1541 Francisco Vasquez de Coronado, with 30 Spanish horsemen, reaches Quivira and Harahey, probably in the Republican Valley along the Nebraska-Kansas boundary
- 1601 Don Juan de Oñate, Governor of New Mexico, explores northeastward into the Quivira region.
- 1662 Don Diego de Peñalosa, Governor of New Mexico, is said to have established contact with Quivira chieftains.
- 1673 Joliet and Marquette lead an expedition from Lake Michigan up the Fox River to the Wisconsin portage and down the Wisconsin River to the Mississippi, descending the latter at lat. 34° N. Returning, they ascend the Illinois River.
- 1682 Sieur de la Salle explores the basin of the Mississippi and takes possession in the name of the King of France.
- 1719 French influence among Pawnee Indians of Platte region is strongly established by Du Tisné.
- 1720 So-called Spanish Caravan massacred by Pawnee Indians, probably near the present town of Columbus.
- 1738 Mallet brothers visit the Missouri Indians in Nebraska, spending the winter near the mouth of the Niobrara River.
- 1739 June. Pierre and Paul Mallet explore the Platte River for 12 days.
- 1763 France, defeated in the French and Indian War, cedes possessions west of the Mississippi to Spain. All territory east of the Mississippi, except the Island of New Orleans, relinquished to Britain.
- 1800 Death of Blackbird, chief of the Omaha, first Indian prominent in Nebraska history
- 1801 October 15. Middlewestern territory, including Nebraska, returned by Spain to France.
- 1803 Louisiana, including Nebraska, purchased from France by the United States.
- 1804 August 3. Lewis and Clark hold first council and negotiate first treaty with Nebraska Indians (Missouri and Oto) at Council Bluff, near present Fort Calhoun
- 1806 Lt. Zebulon M Pike counters Spanish authority; raises American flag over a large Pawnee village in Republican Valley.
- 1807 Manuel Lisa, fur trader, establishes trading posts on the upper Missouri River.
- 1810 Wilson Price Hunt leads an expedition 450 miles up Missouri River from St Louis. Hunt leaves party to winter at mouth of Nadowa River and returns to St Louis
- 1811 March 12 The Oregon-bound Astorian party under Wilson Price Hunt leaves St Louis, picks up winter quarter group at Nadowa River, ascends Missouri River in boats; and goes west from Fort Henry.

- 1812 Fort Lisa, base of American Fur Company, established on the Missouri River, 10 miles above site of Omaha.
- 1813 Robert Stuart's company (the returning Astorians) explore the north side of the Platte through Nebraska.
- 1819-20 Maj. Stephen H. Long traverses the Nebraska area, pronounces it "uninhabitable for people depending upon agriculture for subsistence."
Fort Atkinson, first military post and first Nebraska town, established on the site of Council Bluff Abandoned in 1827
- 1820 Missouri Compromise makes slave-owning illegal in Nebraska.
- 1823 First mention of Bellevue in fur trading records. On the Missouri, six miles below Omaha, Bellevue was first a trading post; and is now Nebraska's oldest and perhaps most interesting town
- 1830 Milton Sublette and party make first wagon road across Nebraska; route later used by emigrants to Oregon
- 1832 Captain Bonneville leads an expedition across Nebraska.
Nathaniel J. Wyeth makes his first trip across Nebraska.
- 1832-33 George Catlin visits the Indian tribes along the Missouri, and paints Nebraska scenes and Indians
- 1833 Prince Maximilian von Wied-Neuwied, eminent scientist and author, goes up the Missouri River His findings, published in the East and in Europe, call attention to Nebraska
Mr. and Mrs. Moses Merrill come to Bellevue as the first missionaries to Nebraska Indians
- 1834 Nathaniel J. Wyeth makes his second trip over the Oregon Trail.
- 1835 The Merrills establish their Otoe Mission on the Platte, eight miles west of Bellevue.
- 1836 Father de Smet, first Catholic missionary to Indians of the Platte and upper Missouri region, arrives at Council Bluffs, Iowa Champion of the Indians and interpreter, he does much to pacify hostile tribes.
- 1842 John C. Frémont ("The Pathfinder") crosses Nebraska over the Oregon Trail In his reports the term "Nebraska" is applied to the Platte River
- 1844 Congress proposes new political unit to be called the Territory of Nebraska.
- 1846-49 Mormon or California Trail First wagon road on the north side of the Platte, which carried much of the traffic to California gold fields after 1848, is made by the Mormons.
- 1851-68 Father de Smet is instrumental in bringing about the Fort Laramie treaties with the Sioux.
- 1854 May 30. Territory of Nebraska created when President Pierce signs the Kansas-Nebraska Bill.
Francis Burt of South Carolina appointed first Governor of Nebraska Territory He died October 18, 1854 Thomas B. Cuming appointed Acting-Governor
Founding of Omaha.
Census gave Nebraska 2,732 inhabitants.
- 1854-57 Mark W. Izard is appointed Governor in 1854 and serves until 1857
- 1855 January 16. First Territorial legislative assembly meets at Omaha City, and "passes law providing for free common schools, and another law prohibiting sale of ardent spirits."

- 1857 General bank failures during Nation-wide panic
- 1857-58 Gen Albert Johnston conducts military expedition across Nebraska to Utah
- 1858 First wagons of the Salt Lake Express start over the Oregon Trail.
J Sterling Morton, Acting-Governor.
- 1858-66 Period of greatest traffic along Nebraska's eastern waterfront.
- 1859 First shipment of grain from the Territory is sent by steamer to St. Louis.
Ben Holladay's overland stages begin operating between St. Joseph and Sacramento
Samuel Black appointed Governor
September First Territorial Fair is held at Nebraska City.
- 1860 Nebraska City Cut-Off, or Steam Wagon Road, opened for travel.
Population (U. S census) 28,841.
- 1860-61 Pony express founded, 1860; abandoned following year.
- 1861 Alvin Saunders, Governor 1861-67.
- 1863 January 1 First free homestead in United States under general Homestead Law taken by Daniel Freeman at Cub Creek, Gage County, Nebraska
- 1865 July. The Union Pacific, pioneer railroad of the Middle West, lays its first rails at Omaha.
- 1866 Influx of Texas cattle Beginning of cattle industry in central and western Nebraska
June 21. First constitution ratified by popular vote.
- 1867 March 1. Nebraska becomes thirty-seventh State of the Union by proclamation of President Johnson. David Butler becomes first State Governor, serving until 1871
July 29. City of Lincoln designated as site of State Capital. State Historical Association founded
Union Pacific Railroad completed through Nebraska.
- 1869 University of Nebraska founded at Lincoln; opened 1871.
May 10 Union Pacific Railroad opened.
Burlington & Missouri Railroad lays first Nebraska track at Plattsmouth.
- 1870 Population 122,993.
- 1870-71 Nebraska Herd Law enacted; defines grazing limitations and protects dirt farmer, making prairie settlement possible.
- 1871 Governor David Butler impeached.
June 2 William H. James becomes Acting-Governor; serves until 1873.
- 1872 First permanent railroad bridge, across the Missouri River completed at Omaha.
January 4 First Arbor Day proclamation; created by resolution of J. Sterling Morton.
- 1873 Last great battle between Indian tribes on American soil is fought in the Republican Valley near Trenton—Massacre Canyon.
Timber-Claim Act passed.
April 13-16 Easter storm, characterized by great loss of life and property, particularly in the newly-settled central area of the State
Panic of 1873
January 9. Robert W. Furnas begins two-year term as Governor
- 1874-77 Grasshopper invasions; most serious damage to crops in 1874-75.
- 1875 New constitution, replacing that of 1866, ratified; goes into effect in November

- Convicts at State Penitentiary rebel and attempt escape.
 Silas Garber, Governor 1875-78.
- 1875-77 Pawnee and Ponca Indians removed to Oklahoma.
- 1877 May 6 Surrender of hostile Sioux under Crazy Horse at Fort Robinson marks end of the Indian Wars on Nebraska frontier.
- 1879 Albinus Nance, Governor 1879-82.
- 1880 First local Farmers Alliance organized in Gage County; followed by State Alliance, 1881.
 Population (U. S. census) 452,402.
- 1880-81 Severe blizzards cause death of thousands of cattle. Many ranchers bankrupt.
 January 1. State Home for Friendless opened at Lincoln
- 1882 Omaha strike called; militia acting as strikebreakers
- 1882-83 First successful cooperative organization in State, Farmers Shipping Association, set up at Superior.
- 1883 James W. Dawes, Governor 1883-86.
- 1885 Nebraska Central College opened at Central City
- 1885-86 Large migrations of grangers (dirt farmers) into Nebraska cattle country.
- 1887 John M. Thayer, Governor 1887-91.
- 1888 January 12. Historic blizzard; great loss of life and property.
 Strike takes place over all the lines of Chicago, Burlington & Quincy; strikers lose.
- 1889 May 1. Industrial Home for Women and Girls opened at Milford.
 August 1. Asylum for Incurable Insane opened at Hastings.
- 1890 Great drought; entire Middle West suffers from lack of rain. Crop failures especially bad in western Nebraska
 July 29. People's Independent Party holds first State convention at Lincoln
 Population 1,062,656
 First sugar beet factory in the State opens at Grand Island.
- 1891 January to May. James E. Boyd, Governor.
 May. John M. Thayer, Governor until ruling was made February 1892 reinstating Boyd as Governor, 1892-93.
- 1892 July 4-5. First National convention of Peoples' Party (or Populist Party) held at Omaha.
 August 1. Eight-hour law goes into effect.
- 1893 Financial panic; effects felt until 1900
 Lorenzo Crounse, Governor 1893-94
- 1894 Drought Corn destroyed by hot winds from the southwest; other crops damaged
- 1895 Silas A. Holcomb, Governor 1895-98.
- 1896 William Jennings Bryan nominated by Democratic and Populist parties for Presidency of the United States.
 Goldenrod adopted as State floral emblem
- 1897 Initiative and referendum law for municipalities passed by legislature
 Sheldon Act passed, forbidding sale of school land (first in United States).
- 1898 Trans-Mississippi Exposition at Omaha.
 Machinists and boilermakers strike in North Platte
 Spanish War.

- 1899 William A. Poynter, Governor 1899-1900.
- 1900 Population 1,066,300
George W. Norris is elected to Congress (Served in lower house until 1913, and in the United States Senate continuously after March 4, 1913.)
- 1901 Charles H. Dietrich, Governor
May 1. Ezra P. Savage, Acting-Governor upon the resignation of Dietrich, 1901-03.
- 1903 January. State Farmers Grain Dealers Association organized.
Elevator site law passed
John H. Mickey, Governor 1903-1907.
- 1904 Kinkaid Homestead Act provides for settlement of the remaining open range in northern and western Nebraska.
- 1907 George L. Sheldon, Governor 1907-09.
- 1909 Ashton C. Shallenberger, Governor 1909-11.
- 1910 Population 1,192,214.
- 1911 Banning Act provides for commission plan of city government.
Legislature passes cooperative law
May 29. First Farmers Union local organization is established in Nebraska.
Chester H. Aldrich, Governor 1911-1913
- 1912 Home Rule amendment to constitution is adopted.
- 1913 John H. Morehead, Governor 1913-17.
- 1915 Motor transportation and power. Beginning of mechanized farming
- 1916 Farmers' Equity Union is organized.
- 1917 State-wide prohibition of intoxicants.
Keith Neville, Governor 1917-19.
- 1917-18 World War.
- 1918 Enactment of laws for construction of hard-surfaced roads.
- 1919 Samuel R. McKelvie, Governor 1919-23.
- 1920 Nebraska Farm Bureau affiliates with national body. New State constitution provides for more complete representation.
Population 1,296,372.
- 1922 Chicago, Burlington and Quincy strike
- 1923 Charles W. Bryan, Governor 1923-25.
- 1925 Adam McMullen, Governor 1925-29.
- 1929 New York Stock Market crash, beginning of depression which was to bring ruin to many Nebraska farmers.
Arthur J. Weaver, Governor 1929-1931.
- 1930 Omaha streetcar strike begins.
Population 1,377,963.
- 1931 Charles W. Bryan, Governor 1931-35.
- 1932 Dedication of Nebraska State Capitol.
November 15. Moratorium on farm mortgages declared in Ninth Judicial District
- 1932-33 Farm Holiday Revolt.
- 1933 Governor Bryan establishes State commission to adjust differences between farmers and creditors.
March 2. Mortgage Moratorium bill passed by legislature.

- 1934 Unicameral legislature proposal adopted
Drought
Streamlined trains.
- 1935 Dust storms, Republican Valley Flood.
Robert Leroy Cochran, Governor 1935-
- 1936 Drought
- 1937 First unicameral legislature meets.

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